Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-210
Wednesday
1 November 1989

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FBIS-LAT-89-210 *1 November 1989*

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Cuba

Castro Speaks at Japanese Garden Dedication

FL3110211789 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0226 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Speech by Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, during a ceremony dedicating a Japanese garden at Havana's National Botanical Garden on 26 October—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed friend Ryo Kawade, ambassador of Japan; Mr (Araki), admired master architect; distinguished guests: I was told there would be a small ceremony this afternoon after the dedication of this garden. Therefore, I think my speech should also be short.

More than 20 years ago, over 600 hectares located in this zone—in the southern part of the city—were earmarked for a new national botanical garden. This is part of a package of projects designed to change our capital, that is, of old projects—because there are old projects and new projects. These were fortunately among our old projects, when we had very few experts, meager resources and very little experience in all this.

At almost that same time, we conceived the idea of developing the Lenin Park, for which we earmarked nearly 400 hectares. A little later, we earmarked another piece of land located between the cities of Havana and Boyeros for a new zoological park, that is, for the new National Zoological Park.

At present, there is intensive work under way for the preparation of projects designed to build a new aquarium or, should we say, to enlarge the old, small aquarium, which will thus become a large and, hopefully, very beautiful aquarium.

Incidentally, we were looking at these projects on a map yesterday and discussed the aquarium project. You can see they will go in a south-north direction, surrounding the city—partly touching it and partly encroaching on areas that will be populated. The Botanical Garden, Lenin Park, the zoo and the aquarium, and the National Exposition Center are five important institutions. We should mention another planned institution which is beginning to be implemented, that is, Havana's Metropolitan Park. Thus, including EXPOCUBA, we are talking about six institutions. At least three or four of them are similar projects: The Botanical Garden, Lenin Park, the Metropolitan Park, and the zoo will provide many trees for a city that had practically no trees.

From the very beginning, we conceived the idea of humanizing the city through this type of institution. There was a little zoo of only a few hectares. The new zoo has more than 300 hectares. Many people used to visit and still visit that small zoo. It is said that millions of people visit it each year. There was also a small botanical garden that was being taken over by the city. It was located in a rather humid area, which is now being drained because the Metropolitan Park will be located in that area.

We can look at the significance of these institutions from various standpoints: From the educational viewpoint, from the scientific-cultural viewpoint and [words indistinct], and also from the social and humanitarian standpoint. The people had nowhere to go; the city did not even have beaches, because the main eastern beaches were exclusively reserved for small sectors.

Later, these beaches were opened to the people. Thus, we have always shown a special interest in this project of the revolution that was gradually implemented. We would have liked to build the Botanical Garden more expeditiously, but experts told us that this type of garden cannot be finished in 2 or 3 years.

The question arose as to whether we should use seeds or we should just transplant young or large plants. A GDR professor, [Castro addresses someone nearby] what was his name? (Bissel), an extraordinary man. We all knew him. We toured some areas of the interior together. He helped us develop a design of what the botanical garden should be like. He proposed dividing it into several zones corresponding to regions of the world: a Latin American zone, African zone, Asian zone, Southeast Asia zone—which I believe is where we are now—and, in sum, what are others? [Unidentified speaker: Australia] Australia and what else? [Unidentified speaker: Oceania] Oceania and Cuba, we should not forget this. An area was to be set aside for Cuba.

I put a lot of thought into designing that botanical garden. We also had to have great patience because (Bissel) told us that this would take a long time. Because of hurricanes, we could not transplant big trees. Trees should be deeply rooted in the ground.

The Lenin Park, however, consists largely of transplanted trees. Later, we had to get seeds from several places. We could not transplant a tree from Southeastern Asia. We had to bring seeds. We started to exchange seeds. Finally, 20 years later, we dedicated this botanical garden. Visitors, however, started coming here in 1984, either in organized groups or individually.

Although little was said about the botanical garden on the 30th anniversary of the revolution, on the day we celebrated the 30th anniversary, we dedicated the botanical garden. You cannot imagine our anxiety when hurricane Kate passed through Havana because we had time and again heard that hurricanes could affect our garden. Yet, the truth is that the garden survived the hurricane. It has at least past the test of a hurricane.

I believe the garden is today a reality, but we must continue to work on it, to continue to develop it. This garden will become, of course, increasingly beautiful. As each tree grows, and we take better care of it, the garden will improve in every respect.

I said earlier that this garden is important in many respects—namely for social and humanitarian reasons—but we should not overlook its scientific significance. This is why this garden was assigned to the Havana University. I believe it was the Biology School, but actually it was the entire Havana University that worked on this garden.

I myself have time and again asked the Botanical Garden: Do you happen to know this plant? Do you have it? Are there such and such seeds available? Are there such and such varieties?

Thus, the Botanical Garden has become a source for consultation with the party and government leadership to make decisions on certain problems.

This is why when the Japanese ambassador proposed building a Japanese garden in the Botanical Garden, we welcomed his idea, we expressed great interest in it. In a brief five-line outline prepared by the Botanical Garden, it was stated that the ambassador talked to the Botanical Garden personnel in July, I mean August, last year.... [unidentified speaker, interrupting: July 1987] July 1987, what do you mean; no, it was in 1988; 1987 was too long ago [laughter]. You are going to distort historical facts [laughter].

I remember quite well that I was consulted in September 1988. Of course I immediately said yes, that I was 100 percent in agreement with the idea. I asked how it was, what we should do, how long it would take, and so forth. At that time, it was an idea, it was just an idea which was conceived by the great good will of the Japanese ambassador. Then, he took the care of organizing everything. We had to find an architect, but it seems that [words indistinct] who was going to be the architect, as he said here, whom he met a long time ago when he was serving as consul in Europe, in the FRG. The ambassador knew Mr (Araki), one of the most talented, prestigious Japanese specialists in this field. I believe the ambassador made an excellent choice because he not only picked a good architect, but a great person.

The ambassador was reminding me today that I had the honor of meeting Mr (Araki) in April on the occasion of the visit to Cuba by Comrade Gorbachev. He was introduced to me during a reception. I know everyone has worked enthusiastically to build this garden as quickly as possible: the builders, the Ministry of Construction of this capital; well, the Botanical Garden and its workers; the university; students of the Camilo Cienfuegos Military Vocational Schools; and many other institutions that were mentioned earlier—several of which will receive awards—have actively participated in building this garden.

I wanted to come to see it, but I was told not to come, that they wanted me to come only when the garden was finished. Some information was released here; explanations were given. Well, trees were received. In the first place, it is located—as I said earlier—the garden is located in the area set aside for Southeast Asia. The trees surrounding the garden grow in Southeast Asia. The garden consists particularly of Japanese plants, and some Cuban plants. This is an exception to the rule: There are some Cuban plants here. Because of our climate, some plants and flowers had to be Cuban. Here we have assorted plants which originated in Japan, Cuba, and Asia.

The stones came from several places: from Soroa; I believe some came from Cienfuegos; and it was mentioned that some came from Santa Cruz del Norte. Stones of various sizes meeting the specifications laid down by the architect came from five or six places. The architect supervised the laying of these stones as well as the work carried out around them because this is an important part of the garden and it was necessary to do it with great skill.

As you can see, the stones were arranged to form a cascade. These stones came from various Cuban provinces. Lumber from various countries was used in the buildings, some came from Cuba, some from Africa. The garden reflects many Japanese traditions, especially, the Japanese principle of promoting recreation and rest, and, undoubtedly, meditation is conceivable in a garden through which a person can stroll and see different views and landscapes. I believe this is the secret or one of their secrets.

The road is a little more than 1,000 meters long; it is 1,700 meters long. Meditation is a truly interesting way of relaxing, of mental recreation. People may come here to meditate on many problems. We all can use a great deal of meditation because we have many problems [laughter].

Thus, that is a concept that combines with nature what.... [Castro changes thought] Ahead you can see the two Managua Hills, which are called the Managua Tits. This is a popular name we should not change. We hope no quarry will be set up there one day and do away with it. We will try to preserve those hills, or tits, if you wish, [laughter], as the people call them. Incidentally, I passed by there not long ago. We do not want a quarry there.

There is another hill farther over there, where we will soon dedicate a factory that will manufacture 30 million bricks. I visited that hill, which has a large reserve of clay that reaches the Managua Tits. Let us hope there is no clay there; and even if there is, we will preserve those hills because they are already part of the scenery, they are part of the Botanical Garden, the are part of the city's attractions.

Looking from there I saw something that spoiled the scenery, something that looked like a building. I asked what it was; I was told it had something to do with television. I asked myself if there were no other hills that would be even higher than those to construct the building on. We could also move the building at any time. For the time being, let no one excavate.... [Castro

changes thought] It is a house. No, that is not a house that is on top of the hill; it is like the little nipple of the Managua Tits. [laughter]

We, indeed, have a very beautiful view from here. I believe it is a work of art because it combines these natural beauties. We have learned a lot. I have always said that a botanical garden cannot be limited to being a scientific center or a collection of plants, but it should be something essentially beautiful.

I remember that before the advent of the revolution we had a small botanical garden. It is located in Cienfuegos. I visited it more than once and I have always admired its beauty. It is a truly recreational place. This is why we asked (Bissel) to combine science with beauty. I believe this desire is now becoming a reality.

Not far from here, we gave a small area of the original 600-hectare lot to the Pioneers, because we thought it was an appropriate place to set up their camp. Not far from here is the Lenin School, an extraordinary school, which is also very beautiful and important.

Adjoining the Botanical Garden, we also have EXPOCUBA.

The existence of EXPOCUBA has caused the number of visitors to the Botanical Garden to double. The Botanical Garden is not quite asmwell known.

As the ambassador and our Comrade Angelita, director of the Botanical Garden, said earlier, the Botanical Garden has become a nice place that is worth visiting. Yet, it will be much more beautiful in months and years to come because many of its plants are still small. Part of the landscaping grass is just being planted. Today we walked through there. We do not know how much damage we could have caused because we walked on a narrow trail, that is, reporters, other guests and ourselves had to walk outside the trail. Thus, in time this garden will achieve its full beauty and splendor.

Some very colorful carp, which also came from Japan, are being raised. They are still very small; they will have to grow and to reproduce. I believe some could become a source of food for the southern area. Besides, we will have to think about creating habits. Thus, this garden is like a newborn baby. It was properly said that the garden was made in 9 months. Well, it was just born and it did not require any type of surgery, right? It was not a caesarean or anything like that. This baby, that is, the Japanese Garden was born after 9 months with good weight and looking very healthy. It was born after 9 months. I believe it will really become something very beautiful.

I am certain that thousands of people will come to this Japanese Garden every week. Yet, we should draw a lesson from this garden about the meaning of art and culture; how significant it is to build something beautiful like this; how much a millenial culture is worth; and how much we have yet to learn in every respect. We learn every day; this is clear. In any activity, one learns something every day. One learns many things. A few days ago, I was talking to the Cohiba Hotel construction workers, who are members of the Blas Roca Contingent. Early in the morning they were already there working. I saw the metal scaffolding, the metal structures to support the cement. Jokingly, I asked them: Are you learning a lot? Yes, we are learning a lot. We are learning fast. In fact, our people learn fast, but we still have a lot to learn. Our country has had no experience in building a five-star hotel with such speed and efficiency. This is something we have to learn. We should build our own metal scaffoldings, and patterns, and apply techniques that will increase our productivity and will stimulate our development.

From this garden, we should learn the principles and the concepts, the art of combining natural resources as was done here. In this way, we can make our land increasingly beautiful and can make our city increasingly people-oriented. A large number of intelligent, capable architects are working on the design of the Metropolitan Park. I was able to see some of their designs not long ago.

As I said earlier, yesterday we were looking at the design for the aquarium, that is, the enlargement of the new aquarium, which will possibly start next year. These projects are designed to humanize life in the city. There is nothing more inhuman than a city full of concrete buildings, without gardens or trees.

Regarding gardening, we still have so much to learn. I believe this garden could become a school; it could become a cell for a Japanese school of gardening. We can learn many things from other countries.

The ambassador said that many people thought that Japan does not have a great culture. I believe that Japan, and the Asian Continent at large, have a culture that is much richer than that of the West, or which is at least as rich as that of the West, or which is richer in some respects, because their culture started much earlier and has been preserved and developed through the laborious spirit and traditional patience that characterize the residents of that part of the world.

The ambassador said that his opinion about the Cubans' ability to work has improved as progress was made in the construction of this garden. It is true. They worked enthusiastically. I am happy he reached that conclusion. We ourselves are improving our opinion about the Cubans' ability to work as we watch the contingents, and we watch tens of thousands of people working with an extraordinary spirit, with an extraordinary dedication.

Whenever I want to draw a comparison of the industriousness of our people, I always turn to Japan as an example. I cannot say Japan is the only one. I know the Koreans are also hard workers. I know the DPRK people; I know they are great workers.

We were able to see here that the Chinese people, their spirit [words indistinct] throughout history in our country. I cite these examples because Japan has made remarkable

progress thanks to their industriousness and to their intelligence [words indistinct]. On certain occasions I also talked to some Japanese visitors and I told them with great satisfaction that we already have excellent collectives of workers who can work like them. I wish we could say one day and, there could be some, that some collectives work harder than the Japanese. Unfortunately, we are too far from the average industriousness and working spirit of the Japanese people. Yet, we are struggling and we are also acquiring a new culture of work.

Therefore, we admire Japan for many things, for its work spirit, its culture, its talent, even its philosophy and the way its faces life. We admire its development—although it is a country with little raw material, it has developed a great deal. Japan's machinery is good. We have many Japanese machines in Cuba. We appreciate them because of their quality. We have Japanese industrial machinery and construction equipment. We can vouch for the quality of those Japanese industrial products.

I need to express our deepest gratitude to the ambassador, to the architect, the association commemorating the 1970 Japanese World Exposition, the Japanese flower and garden association, the representatives of businesses who donated a small tractor appropriate for the type of work necessary for the maintenance of this new garden, and to all of those who have cooperated with this. We also have to thank the Japanese people because we see this as an expression of the sentiments of the Japanese people and the generosity of the Japanese people. We value this not because of its cost for what it means, for what it symbolizes.

The Japanese donated the idea, they donated the plans, they donated the technology, everything that makes the fountain work, the lighting. They helped us in the work, in the direction, and execution of the project. We truly appreciate it very much.

We are glad that the ambassador believes it is already the biggest one in America. We will try to keep it the best one so that we are worthy of the honor of having the largest Japanese garden in Latin America and the Caribbean. It enriches our botanical garden which we hope will become one of the best ones in the world. Therefore, it is one of the largest ones of the world.

This is proof of our confidence in the future, of the faith we have in man, our defiance toward nature. We did not mind the hurricanes. If a powerful hurricane comes here one day and destroys half of the garden, we will plant the garden again. If all the garden's trees are downed, we would plant them again. I know they are going to withstand the force. We are used to seeing them as adult trees.

I recommended once that plants similar to these—plants from other areas of the world—be planted in other parts of the country so if a hurricane destroys many of those trees we can go there, take them out, and plant them again. Who knows what we are capable of doing to those trees so they cannot be knocked over. It would be somewhat like what we are doing with banana plants that we irrigate with microjets. Their increased production makes them fall down in the slightest wind. We put a post next to them. We did not think of it, but there could be things that could strengthen the roots and make them stand somehow. This may not be necessary. The first hurricane hit and nothing happened. If that idea of having trees in different places is carried out, we can rebuild it and not have to wait 20 years. We will plant and rebuild in record time.

This is why I say this garden is proof of the optimism of our people, of the concern of the revolution toward the people and everything that has to do with the people's welfare, of the revolution's concern with science. We are making considerable progress in science. We are progressing pretty quickly with the production of new medicines, new products—some of them very novel ones—which bring hope to our country.

I am not going to say long live the friendship between the Japanese and Cuban people because this friendship is alive, and it is also strengthened. I am going to conclude by expressing the certainty that this garden will be more and more beautiful, this Botanical Garden will be more and more beautiful, also, and the capital of our fatherland will be more and more humane and beautiful. This Japanese Garden we inaugurate today will always be a symbol of the friendship between two peoples, the people of Japan and the people of Cuba. Thank you very much. [applause]

Castro Awards Banner to Telephone Workers

FL011041289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0302 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Report by Maderin Murgilla and Francisco Hernandez]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers tonight presented the banner creating the Claudio Arguelles Communications Contingent, which is comprised of telephone workers from the capital.

Fidel visited the new Revolution Square telephone center that is being constructed by this contingent. The basic document of the 16th Congress of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] was also discussed in this building.

During a short tour of the installation, Communications Minister Manuel Castillo briefed the commander in chief on the characteristics of the project which will have the capacity for 11,000 telephone lines. The project will be finished next year.

In a brief speech to the members of the contingent, Fidel recalled how an important program of investments is being applied to Havana's telephone system which will allow the country to have 370,000 phone lines in 5 years. During his visit tonight to the new Revolution Square telephone center, the commander in chief praised the

work of the Claudio Arguelles Contingent, which, to a large degree, is providing a solution to the capital's telephone system problems.

Immediately after presenting the banner to the contingent, Fidel recalled how this center came about as a result of the fire at the Aguila y Dragones center. The fire hit like a bombshell on the already difficult situation in communications, he said. He added that the contingent's work has been closely followed by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, which very recently analyzed other areas of the telephone system where problems remain to be resolved because of a lack of (?substance) and discipline. Fidel said that the country is making a great effort to find resources to improve communications because it is important to the people and the revolution.

Under the current communications construction program, Fidel said, in a few years we will be importing less than half of the resources that we now purchase abroad. The commander in chief made this statement as he toured the new Revolution Square telephone center where the Claudio Arguelles Contingent works.

Fidel mentioned the recently-concluded debate on the CTC congress document. During the debate, the members of the contingent called on other telephone workers to work with the same (?enthusiasm). In reference to this, the commander in chief said that if another person had said this, he might be right, but he would not have the same impact that the Claudio Arguelles Contingent had. Fidel then congratulated the contingent on behalf of the PCC for the banner they received.

Further on Castro at Students Meeting

FL3110130289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] There is nothing better than students going over to the enterprises and watching laborers produce inasmuch as they are the backbone of society. This was said by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, during his participation in the expanded council of the Federation of University Students [FEU], which began yesterday at noon and ended after midnight.

It is very beneficial for students to see laborers producing because intellectuals run the risk of not noticing the work many fellow countrymen do. Later, Fidel said: There are people in the country who work very hard, such as those who work in front of furnaces, nurse's aids who take care of sick people, and others. The commander in chief explained that the doctor has to serve the people and noted that the most revolutionary thing that has been done in Cuba is the implementation of the idea of the family doctor. This places the country at the top.

During his participation in the meeting, Fidel reiterated the idea that we are no longer as we were at the beginning of the revolution. Thousands of professionals were needed then because there were none. They continue to be trained, and revolutionary concepts are implemented for their use by placing them in the field, at the grass roots, and not at high-level management offices.

The commander in chief highlighted the importance of computers in higher education. He spoke about the support the state has given in this front. Castro was interested in learning details about the number of machines needed to adequately cover the schools.

The expanded council of the FEU began with the reading of the summary of the main report by FEU President Felipe Perez, which included the work done since the third FEU congress. Important subjects were discussed with repeated interventions by Fidel regarding the students' involvement in practical training, teaching units, broad profile, the status of university centers under construction, and job placement.

The first secretary of the PCC Central Committee said he would meet again with FEU members within a few months. He concluded by saying that a lot of progress will be made thanks to this meeting.

Over 140 Internationalists Arrive From Angola

FL3110133089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Over 140 internationalists arrived in the fatherland from Angola last night. They were welcomed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and Brigade General Juan B. Pujols. [passage omitted]

* 'Poor' Army Organization, Discipline Revealed

90EM0016 Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish Aug 89 pp 7-10

[Text] Being bad losers, we left before the end of the maneuver. Life proved to be much more complex than the optimistic work plan conceived at the offices of a magazine, and—worse yet—than the combat preparation plan approved by the headquarters of a large unit of the Western Army.

That morning we arrived early at the Jejenes range, where the new face of paved streets, cold water in the mess halls, a well stocked cafeteria, and ventilators in the roofs of the soldiers' barracks were extremely impressive for the visitors, especially those who had seen the place some time ago.

We had already been there the week before for the purpose of coordinating a story on the preparation of our troops. At that time we were told—according to plan—the date, time, and place when the corresponding maneuver would begin, with live ammunition. We confirmed it with an officer at the headquarters of the large unit to which the company designated for the exercise belonged.

Everything was all arranged, and the signs pointed to a good story. That was why the VERDE OLIVO editorial staff decided to reinforce the usual team of a journalist and a photographer with another lens specialist, to guarantee more and better images, including nighttime pictures. According to the plan, a defensive battle was scheduled to take place at night.

Nevertheless, we decided to rise early on the appointed day and arrive well before schedule in Jejenes, in case of any change. But no, the battalion chief told us that everything would go according to plan. At 1400 hours, "the thing" was to begin.

At 1355 we received the first blow: a sad trio of tanks, around and on top of which wandered several soldiers and an officer, were the only evidence of the company's presence in the place where the action was to begin. Without batting an eye, the officer explained to us that the maneuver was being postponed until the following day because three of the six tanks needed were out for repairs. He said that we should not worry, "Tomorrow at ten sharp 'the thing' will begin, exactly according to plan."

The next day, after 1040 hours, right on schedule, the "enemy" air strike began. Soldiers and officers waited patiently for the strike in their barracks. Then they ran out with their rifles and gasmasks, which of course they already had ready, and ran between the smoke and a few imitation explosions toward the tank park. Many of the tanks had already been started a few moments before, perhaps to speed up the exercise.

It took just a few minutes to scatter the tanks toward a nearby marabu patch.

Incommunicado in a Tank Without Missiles

I took advantage of the halt to occupy the place of the artilleryman in the company commander's tank. The loader's post was also vacant. Apparently, the lead tank would not participate in the firing. Maybe in wartime the commander's tank doesn't fight?

I put on the interphone headset, and when the hatch closed it left the interior of the steel hulk in semi-darkness. For that reason, it took me several seconds to realize my mistake: The device needed to connect the headset with the communications network was missing.

For an instant I thought of abandoning the place, but I decided to stay there in order to see how the company commander directed the actions from inside the tank. From the artilleryman's position it would be easy to hear the lieutenant, as we were practically on top of each other.

Wrong again. The young officer could barely make himself understood among his subordinates; he shouted and repeated the same orders several times, without being sure that everyone could hear him; he was sweating profusely, and he smiled in embarrassment whenever our eyes met.

They gave the order to depart, which I had to transmit to our driver by hitting his shoulder. He couldn't hear the commander, either!

We advanced in a column several kilometers along an embankment. As we went along my comrade remained silent, until orders were given to deploy and occupy the defense. Then he merely instructed the driver until we got in line with two other tanks. It was not an easy task, but at least this time he could be heard.

Finally we stopped. I jumped out of the hatch, convinced that if I wanted to get a better picture of the maneuver, I had better get far away from there.

Everything Seemed in Order, But....

As I suspected, it was the battalion commander who, from the top of a BTR [Broneje Transporter], directed the movement and determined all the actions the company would take. He would undoubtedly be an enthusiastic and well prepared officer.

The occupation of the defense and the repulsion of the "enemy" went well from the tactical standpoint. The targets were knocked down by the fire of the tanks and the infantry.

Everything appeared to be in order, but the soldiers wandered around among the tanks as if they didn't have a care in the world, and very few of them dug good foxholes for protection. The tank crewmen didn't waste any time crawling out the hatches to chat and even to smoke, all of which happened right in front of the officers who were supposed to act as umpires.

In view of that, the commanding officer who was supervising the maneuver gave them a good chewing out, but he succeeded in getting only a momentary improvement. Luckily the "enemy" was only on paper....

Meanwhile, the magazine photographers saw that the possibilities for getting "good combat images," as they had been instructed, were slipping away. Nor would it be possible to get nighttime photos, because the delay in beginning the exercise had caused the leaders to eliminate the night battle.

Finally the offensive began, and tanks and soldiers threw everything they had at the new targets and at a herd of cattle that was calmly grazing in the same vicinity as the "enemy" that afternoon.

That was enough. We decided to withdraw when the exercise was called to a halt once again.

A Lot of 'Whys' With No Answers

I realize that that was our biggest mistake. The fact that we felt so put out caused us to leave without saying goodbye and without asking for any explanation for so many setbacks. Thus, all the magazine got were some pictures and a ton of "whys."

Back at the office, we decided not to accept defeat, but to draw some benefit from it. We should share and reflect with our readers—among whom we hope are some of the protagonists of this story—on the doubts that arose in our minds:

Why did the company commander have practically no say in the exercise, especially since this was a young officer who needed to acquire confidence in the leadership of his troops in combat?

Why one tank to "direct" and others to fight?

Why didn't anyone create real battle conditions so that the maneuver would seem as close as possible to real combat?

Why did it seem that every single soldier knew from memory what was going to happen during each stage of the exercise? What about dynamics, initiative?

Why did the umpires allow indiscipline and disorganization?

Fortunately, this is an isolated incident, as we have seen many other maneuvers, but this should still serve as a warning and, more importantly, a lesson for all. Whether or not this is so is up to our readers. Meanwhile, VERDE OLIVO will continue its visits to the training ranges.

* Changes in Officials in Holguin Province

90EM0015 Havana GRANMA in Spanish 25 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] A special plenum of the Provincial Party Committee was held in Holguin, and the movement of cadres in that territory was approved.

This important meeting was preceded by others called by the Executive Bureau of the Provincial Committee and the bureaus and committees of various municipalities. The meetings were held in conjunction with the visit to this province by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura a few days ago. Machado Ventura is a member of the Politburo and of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Francisco Garcia Ferrer also participated in these discussions along with Machado. Garcia Ferrer, who is an alternate member of the Central Committee and first secretary in Holguin, presided over the analysis carried out in this special plenum last Thursday. The following decisions were adopted there:

To relieve Comrades Antonio Luis Marino and Ezequiel Zardival Gutierrez of their respective posts as members of the Executive Bureau of the Provincial Committee.

Lester Guzman Alamos, who had formerly been relieved of his position as first secretary of the municipality of Holguin at the request of the province, was promoted to professional member of the Executive Bureau of the Provincial Committee. He will replace Marino as head of organization.

Zardival's post as head of sugar agriculture will now be filled directly by First Secretary Garcia Ferrer.

The Municipal Committee of Banes had approved, also at the request of the province, the relief of Roger Sanchez Concepcion as first secretary. He was later selected to fill that same post in the municipality of Holguin when Guzman was promoted.

The promotion of Sanchez, in turn, allowed Adolfo Leyva Batista to move up to first secretary in Banes.

The special plenum also approved the promotion of Comrade Marta Bosch Diaz as chief of the Construction Department of the Provincial Committee. Other movements were also approved in the municipalities.

In addition, the plenum studied the report of a commission of the Provincial Committee's Executive Bureau, which clarified and determined the responsibilities of the political and administrative leaders of the province and of the municipality of Mayari. These officials were implicated in the disinformation campaign regarding data on the production of the Guatemala Sugar Processing Plant [CAI] in the last sugar harvest.

The following officials were removed from office for their participation in these irregularities: The chief of the Sugar Department of the Provincial Committee, Julio Posta Puig; the first secretary of the municipality of Mayari, Heriberto Perez Pacheco; and members of the Municipal Bureau Antonio Olivera Diaz and German Hernandez. The latter was also removed as general secretary of the Party Committee of the Guatemala CAI. The director of that CAI, in addition to being replaced, was expelled from the ranks of the Party and therefore lost his membership on the Mayari Municipal Committee. Roberto Bello Garcia, delegate of the Ministry of Sugar Industry [MINAZ] in the territory, was also removed from the Party Provincial Committee.

Rafael Aquiles Mendoza was elected first secretary of Mayari at a special plenum of that Municipal Committee.

Finally, the plenum approved the expulsion from the Party, and therefore from the Provincial Committee, of Armando Montejo Castell, due to loss of prestige and abuse of office as second secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] in the territory. He had already been replaced in that position. In addition, Ixart Cuenca Mastrapa was expelled from the Provincial Committee. He had already been removed as general secretary of the CTC in Holguin for failing to act with exigency and vigor in response to Montejo's attitude.

* Cold Water, Ice, Juice Shortages in Havana

90EM0012 Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 33 18 Aug 89 pp 21-26

[Article by Enrique Valdes Perez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Walking through the streets of Havana under this hellish sun has become torture for the population, especially in the heart of the capital, where the restaurants, theaters, and department stores abound.

Suffocating in the heat and drenched in sweat, the pedestrian tries to quench his thirst and looks in vain for a refreshing drink.

What ferocious enemy can we blame for this calamity? How can we explain the lack of cold liquids in a country that is rich in fruits and capable of producing excellent juices? And what about water, a simple glass of water that is indolently denied us on so many occasions, or given to us almost mockingly, as hot as the weather outside?

We have tried to get to the root of this problem, and although the solutions might not be simple, we are sure, at least, that they are not very complicated. We are certain that the agencies in charge of this are hiding behind economic difficulties, the lack of material resources, and other limiting factors that make matters worse.

This report represents an initial effort to clarify the issue.

Passing the Buck

The first steps took us to the office of Francisco Rodriguez, director of restaurants for the People's Government in the capital.

He explains his function: to distribute what the producers ship. This year he has received 42 percent more soft drinks in bulk than last year. And because of the bumper citrus harvest of 1988, they were so prepared that his innovators managed to make 150 orange and grapefruit juicers. Nevertheless, deliveries from warehouses were limited. Thanks to his enterprise's efforts, 70 tons of lemon extract were obtained from the Isle of Youth. That did not last long, because, in his words, "this city is the mouth of a tremendous wolf," and it is not easy to keep its 1,300 eating establishments supplied.

How much can we really say in favor of the Restaurant Directorate in the city of Havana? Whatever was directly in its power to resolve, it resolved: serving cold water in the establishments that had the right conditions.

"There are always breakdowns with the ice," he went on. "The first to suffer is the restaurant network. That is one reason why it is sometimes impossible to find iced drinks, and why the juice that is available cannot be cooled enough. It also has an effect on the sale of guarapo. One thing that is beginning to undermine our service is the water shortage, as many restaurants get their supplies from water trucks."

Still Looking for the Culprit

Rolando Abreu is the assistant technical director of the Pedro Marrero (formerly Tropical), Miguel Angel Oramas (Polar), and Guido Perez (Modelo) breweries.

To our surprise, Abreu reveals that between January and May of this year the malt plan has been filled, with a total of 945,375 cases.

"We have enough malt to saturate the capital and nearby provinces. But there is no market in the city of Havana. Most of the thermoses that the brewers had ended up in the soft drink enterprise, because there was a time when we could not meet demand."

[BOHEMIA] And what do you do, then?

[Abreu] Our cars take the cargo to the interior of the country, and water trucks come here from the interior to pick up malt and beer.

[BOHEMIA] Beer?

[Abreu] Yes, since we're talking about cooling off in the street, don't you think it would be a good idea to drink a mug of beer, too?

We confess to him that we did not have beer on our agenda, as we were assuming that production was practically nil.

[Abreu] We have problems with bottled beer, not with beer in bulk. As of May, we had produced 2,471,559 cases. So while there are hardly any bulk sales of malt and beer in Havana, in the provinces in the interior these sales have climbed considerably.

[BOHEMIA] Would it be possible to sell it in barrels, as it used to be?

[Abreu] We have thought of that, but we would have to make investments in foreign currency, and right now that's not possible. We have made an inquiry with the Steelworking Industry [SIME] to see what can be done, but there is nothing specific.

[BOHEMIA] Why is there an ice shortage in the capital?

[Abreu] There we do have serious difficulties. The yearly plan at Pedro Marrero is 82-percent fulfilled, and at Miguel Angel Oramas it is 55-percent fulfilled, which means that we have a shortfall of 60,000 blocks.

"In both plants we have poor technology, which is aggravated, in the case of Miguel Angel Oramas, by the problems encountered in the refrigeration system. In the latter plant, 500 ice molds were received in June to restore capacity, and this has boosted production by 700 blocks a day. Another 500 molds are expected immediately.

"At Pedro Marrero, we were supposed to receive 500 molds last year, but their delivery was postponed to this year, and we still haven't received them. The provincial party has formed a brigade to repair one of the plants that have been shut down due to their dilapidated condition. Once work is completed, we will be able to produce 3,000 blocks per day among the two factories. This, added to the small plants run by the People's Government in the city, should alleviate the present situation.

"In addition, at Miguel Angel Oramas we restored a tank this year and will restore another one in early 1990; each of them has a capacity for 1,000 blocks per day. That will totally solve the problem, although I repeat that the improvement will be seen gradually over the next few months."

Search Not Over

Warehousing and Select Fruits have a lot to do with the issue we are discussing. They also have their opinions. Present at the meeting are Roberto Marquez, a specialist in the office of the assistant director of trade for Select Fruits; Ariel Diaz, assistant director of trade for the National Union of Warehouses; Israel Solorzano, provincial chief of Select Fruits in Havana; and Pablo del Toro, head of trade for Warehousing.

[Ariel] We meet every month with the restaurant sector and the Soft Drink Enterprise to look at how plans are going. The fact is that sometimes there can be a detail to which we do not attribute enough importance, and it turns out to be of great significance; but that's not the rule. We play a fundamental role with respect to juice, as we are the suppliers of fruit and pulp to the People's Government restaurant sector and to the Ministry of the Food Industry.

"The problem is, our volumes do not meet the industry's needs. Nevertheless, it is clear that we can allocate some additional quantities at certain times. In the last campaign, there were enough oranges and grapefruits. We have delivered mangoes and pineapples to the restaurants, not in large quantities, but that helps. In the coming months we will supply lemons, oranges, mandarins, and grapefruits in quantities that will enable us to meet demand between September and April. But the restaurant sector has to prepare for that. I think that the essential thing is to worry less and to work more. I think a comprehensive effort must be made with all sources to establish close cooperation."

[Del Toro] There will not be any significant problems with the restaurant sector, although the distribution network is very large. Furthermore, our sheds are very small. I also feel that there should be closer ties between the municipal levels and us at the provincial level, because sometimes we get fruit all of a sudden, and a simple phone call could improve distribution and avoid losses.

[Ariel] Tomato juice can also be sold; to do that, all we need is an agreement between the managers and the municipal directorates of the People's Government.

[BOHEMIA] Would it be feasible to open up more juice outlets?

[Ariel] I think the best thing is to keep the existing ones supplied.

[Del Toro] There aren't many places with good conditions. The water situation is difficult, not to mention ice, and sometimes we don't have enough sugar. But sometimes it's a matter of a lack of creativity. For example, in Holguin, an internal initiative led to the establishment of a plant to produce pulp, and it is yielding very good results. I think that rather than opening up juice bars, it is better to use existing cafes, which now have a limited supply.

[Ariel] Another problem with juice bars is that they don't have adequate storage, and we would have to deliver the fruit to them daily. But there are no connections for that. We have the situation with some managers, like the one in the juice bar on Via Blanca, who constantly pounce on us and buy up whatever we have. In that regard, personal efforts are also important. I wonder why we don't open establishments in the capital that specialize in selling mango juice or shakes? We have a ripening system that guarantees that the fruit can be used for that within 72 hours.

Soft Drink Officials Speak

Mariano Pautou, assistant director of production, and Emilio Guevara, assistant director of trade for the Havana Beverages and Liquors Enterprise, participated in the debate.

[Guevara] The first obstacle we face is that there are not enough kegs to handle our high production volumes. As everyone knows, we need stainless steel kegs, like those that used to be used in the beer outlets. That is precisely the network we are using, and we have had to move over to malt, because for a time there was no way to guarantee regular service.

[BOHEMIA] Is there any problem in having malt and soft drinks simultaneously when a keg is empty?

[Guevara] That is not advisable. The ideal would be for every center to have two kegs, one for soft drinks and the other for malt. We have given priority to bulk soft drinks, because it is a lot less difficult to process them than bottled beverages, which entails serious problems, and the quality is the same.

"Until May the plan had been fulfilled by 125 percent. And this upward trend is continuing. We are convinced that this is the solution for Havana. To be sure, now we have encountered a little glitch. Although the carnival is over, some booths remained open during August, and since all the kegs in the capital were made available to sell beer at the festival, we have to wait until they are returned for cafes to have normal supplies of soft drinks. That, as you can see, damages the network."

[Pautou] We must clearly define what the malt network is and what the soft drink network is. If we invaded the malt network, it was because we were asked to, as we were in a position to render a service that was not being provided at that time.

[BOHEMIA] Why, if there are so many soft drinks, is it so hard to find them?

[Pautou] Look, our drivers are linked, so they are the ones most interested in having soft drink supplies. Every day they go around to the establishments, which have 10-hectoliter kegs. What happens? At most of them, the neighbors line up with all kinds of containers. Within 3 hours, naturally, they run out. In other places, they claim that because of the lack of glasses, or water, or detergent, they can't sell the drinks at the counter and people have to take them out. There are also kegs there that crack and are not repaired, or they repair the kegs but don't tell us. Although it may seem incredible, there are managers who aren't very interested in selling soft drinks. In fact, the truck comes and they refuse to have their kegs filled. They tell the driver, "Leave me just 4 hectoliters." We've found that one soft drink bar even turned into a beer bar overnight, because they were offered beer and they seemed to like that more.

[Guevara] We started out with 30,000 cases of soft drinks in bulk and now we are at 300,000. But that's not enough to meet the population's needs. We would have to conduct a comprehensive study of the kegs that exist and those that may be made in the future. For our part, we have absolute control over every keg in the city and the amount of soft drinks that are served.

[BOHEMIA] Would it be possible for the trucks to make more than one delivery to soft drink bars in central locations?

[Pautou] That could be studied with the restaurant sector. In fact, there are less heavily populated areas where there is not so much demand. I think we could redistribute the kegs, and instead of having just one in the areas of greatest demand, such as the heart of the capital, where the stores and many businesses are located, we could have two or three.

[Guevara] Another aspect of the problem is the administrative one. Guanabacoa is an example to follow. Sales are constantly on the rise. Plaza, on the other hand, is behind. And in that municipality there is a center that is a complete disaster: La Piragua. There are always soft drinks there, but most of the time they say there aren't any glasses, or when they have them they say there's no one to wash them.

"Another thing: In central areas, drinks should be sold exclusively in glasses, not to go. That will solve the problem for pedestrians. In general, sales management can't be spontaneous. There must be someone in charge."

And What About Juices?

Adalberto Rosales Carrazana has been running the Via Blanca juice bar, a mandatory stopping place for pedestrians and truck drivers, for about 9 months. He has managed the place so well that sales have soared from 500 pesos a day to 2,000 pesos.

"I grew up behind a counter. The important thing in these establishments is that the manager must want to work. I don't wait for them to call me to go out and look for the product. I'm always on top of Warehousing and Select Fruits. During this season, when oranges were so plentiful, I bought 237,000 pounds. On other occasions we have sold natural juice made from guanabana, medlar, lemon, pineapple, melon, mamey, guayaba, and tamarind. We have even sold shakes here, always with fresh fruit.

"I have two large problems: shortage of ice and lack of refrigeration. We have only one ice cream machine and we are using it to cool water for sale. The enterprise is going to take it away from us, because we don't sell ice cream here.

"To sell juice, all you have to have is the desire. It's not necessary to install kegs or anything complex. With the amount of fruit we have, the capital could be filled with juice."

We conducted a survey among the customers. There were criticisms: the establishment is dirty, and the juice, usually fresh, is rarely cold because of the lack of ice. Nevertheless, there is a consensus that it is better to drink it that way until the refrigeration problem is solved. As for the cleanliness problem, the management admits that this is a deficiency and promises to eliminate it.

Return to the Seed

We visited Francisco Rodriguez, director of restaurants for the Havana People's Government, once again to clarify a few matters. He does not share the opinion that the solution for malt and soft drinks is to sell in bulk, because there are only 120 kegs, and making new ones would involve foreign exchange investments.

"That is their solution, but not the restaurant sector's. We need bottled beverages," he declared. He added, "It appears that everyone wants to pass the buck." He proposes: "Let's call together all the players in the game through this magazine story, and let's look together for a real, serious, committed solution so that once and for all, we can cool off the streets, as the people are demanding."

As we stated at the beginning, this is an initial effort to clarify matters. The second effort should be the meeting proposed by the restaurant sector, an idea that was hinted at by the other parties we consulted.

All indications are that no one has realized the extent of the problem. Each person has minded his own business, without realizing that everyone has a responsibility to guarantee the population a supply of refreshing beverages. [passage omitted]

Grenada

Sugar Workers Strike Over Profit-Sharing

FL0111005589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Oct 31, CANA—The board of directors of the Grenada Sugar Factory (GSF), the

biggest on the island, were meeting in emergency session tonight to try and resolve a strike among daily paid workers which halted production at the plant. An estimated 70 employees withdrew their labour today as a row between management and their representatives, the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) over profit sharing continued.

GSF Manager Terence Moore told CANA that the action by the workers caused the factory to lose around 20-30,000 East Caribbean dollars in production.

TAWU has accused the factory's management of employing "union-bursting tactics" in an attempt to get it to accept a 10 instead of 25 percent profit sharing arrangement agreed to in their last industrial contract. GSF tried unsuccessfully last year to get TAWU to agree to the proposal which has been accepted by the Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU), responsible for all monthly paid employees at the factory.

The factory's management wrote TAWU Monday informing the union of its decision to make all daily paid workers monthly employees. TAWU's Executive Secretary Chester Humphrey told CANA that the union sees the move as one aimed at trying to force out the union. Humphrey said that TAWU is not opposed to a reduction in profit sharing but would like to see some of the funds used to purchase shares in the company for workers.

Haiti

Alliance Announces Bazin Presidential Candidate

FL3110174389 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Well, there you have it! The veil has been lifted. It is Marc L. Bazin of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] who will represent the National Alliance for Democracy [and Progress] in the next presidential election. This was officially announced yesterday by Dejean Belizaire of the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28] at the opening of the MIDH's second national congress at the Meridien night club. The MNP-28, Serges Gilles' Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra], and the MIDH have reached agreement to, in the coming elections, present a single candidate for each position. [passage omitted]

Some nine people spoke [at yesterday's MIDH congress opening ceremony], saluting the work accomplished by the MIDH on the Haitian political terrain. [passage omitted]

Three Dominican political figures also spoke at this MIDH congress: (Andres Vanderost) of Estructura; (Fafa Tavares) of the Dominican Workers Party; and Max Puig of the Dominican Liberal Party. These three political leaders yesterday expressed their full support for the MIDH and for the struggle for democracy being waged by the Haitian people. [passage omitted]

Another speaker at the congress was Steve Horblitt, of the office of U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy. Horblitt feels yesterday's demonstration by the MIDH is the appropriate response to all those who claim that Haiti is not ready for democracy. To his friend and brother [preceding word in English] Marc L. Bazin, Steve Horblitt reaffirmed the full support of the special U.S. congressional committee on Haiti headed by Walter Fauntroy. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Haitian situation, the MIDH leader thinks there is real reason to worry. We are a nation economically blocked and politically in suspension, says Bazin, who nevertheless thinks that things can change.

[Begin Bazin recording] [Passage omitted] No one is spared—not the civil servants, the factory workers, the day laborers, or retired people. No one with a fixed income is spared, for this income is continuously eroding. No one is spared, not even—and I did indeed say not even—that fraction of the haves who think sufficiently accurately and fairly to be aware of the rising discontent and the absence of dollars and who say to themselves that after all, in the last analysis, all things considered, the current disorder and injustice is not good for anyone at all! [applause] [passage omitted] [end recording]

In connection with elections, Mr Bazin urges the Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] to show that it is vigilant and wise. [passage omitted]

The MIDH's president would also like to see the alliance broaden and become stronger. He feels this is a national and international necessity. In his speech, Marc Bazin also called on the Haitian nation to reconcile itself.

[Begin Bazin recording] We are divided into [words indistinct] and [words indistinct]. We are divided into America's men, France's men, Moscow's men, Cuba's men, Nicaragua's men, and Venezuela's men [words indistinct] (?whereas) what we really are is Haitians! [applause, cheering]. We are all Haitians, and it is a great cry of alarm, a great call for deliverance that I (?am uttering) today. It is we who made this country. We made it alone. It is up to us to save it. We will save it ourselves, but all of us together. [applause]

So, I tell you that it will not be, for the democrats, simply a matter of winning the elections. We will have to manage the transition. (?We are) thus the feet and the [words indistinct] of a great cause. We are all witnesses to and participants in a great experience. Therefore I, Bazin, today say to you, with a heart (?bursting) with (?hope): Haitians both male and female, arise! Let us get moving! [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Government Announces Devaluation of Dollar

FL3110220989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 31, CANA—The government on Tuesday announced a devaluation of the Jamaican dollar from 6.19 to 6.50 against the U.S. dollar. The announcement was made after a Cabinet retreat on the economy in the north coast town of Ocho Rios.

Trinidad and Tobago

Prime Minister Discusses State of Nation

FL3110235789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2252 GMT 31 Oct 89

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Oct 31, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson believes the once prosperous Caribbean republic is now settling down socially and economically. Asked about "heightened restlessness in the country, Robinson told an impromptu news conference he preferred to look at the situation differently.

"I think, at the moment, we have come over a period of restlessness. In my view, the country is settling down very nicely again," Robinson told journalists at his home Tuesday.

Asked questions about a strike in the key oil sector which led to the postponement of his attendance at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference, a recent judges boycott, and police force complaints, Robinson said: "We've had the oil strike, that is settled; we had negotiations with other industries, those negotiations have been concluded; we had the issue of the judges, that has been at least reduced to a manageable level. The judges are back if they ever were (off the job). My information is that they'd never abandoned the work-...But the point is that's over. That's behind us now."

"All these things are behind us. What is important is that they're being managed, they're being settled and it's a credit to everybody. It's not attempting to get the credit to the government. It's a credit to the community," the Trinidad and Tobago leader said. "Every country has its problems and what matters is how those problems are managed," Robinson said.

Asked about the 1990 budget, expected in the next couple of months, Robinson said that no tougher measures than those which had already gone could be expected. He pointed to the government's structural adjustment plans made public as the administration moved to acquire a 14-month International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby programme.

Questioned about a weekend poll which indicated he was more popular, Robinson said he had personally detected an increased warmth and government improved relations with the population.

"What we expected was, after we had taken the measures that we had to take and the population had come to understand the reason for those measures, we knew that, after a dip in our popularity, there was going to be an upturn," Robinson said.

Robinson said his near three-year-old administration had spent its first two years stabilising the economy and diversifying the oil-based economy. The Trinidad leader said this was now taking place and that it would take time for the effects of the turnaround to be felt throughout the society.

"The full process of diversification—tourism has not yet been fully developed. The manufacturing sector has not yet developed to its full potential..." Robinson said predicting more obvious signs of an economic upturn next year.

On unemployment, he said: "One should not expect the unemployment problem to be resolved overnight. It's going to take some time but we are in a better position now to address that matter than before."

On the question of crime, Robinson commended Police Commissioner Louis Rodriguez, who handed in his resignation, for behaving "decently" in a situation "where he felt that he should offer his resignation". "It's an example which some others could follow," Robinson added.

Robinson said he would now take a personal look at the crime situation and would seek to help build morale in the force which has openly called for an apology from National Security Minister Selwyn Richardson over criticisms.

On the shooting at the car in which the president's wife was travelling, Robinson said foreign help had been sought, progress was being made and that an announcement would be made when appropriate.

"My major concern is that there is crime, that people are worried about it, that it's affecting the lives of people. Whether it's on the rise is secondary," Robinson said. "There is a serious situation that needs to be addressed and we are regarding it as such."

Robinson called together a select group of reporters to talk about his visit last week to Costa Rica for the celebrations of 100 years of democracy. He described the visit as "memorable".

Invitation To Join Group of 15 Accepted

PA3110141589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Mexico has decided to accept Peruvian President Alan Garcia's invitation to participate in the creation of the Group of 15 along with Latin American, African, and Asian countries. The members of the group will be: Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe. Each country will appoint a representative. Mexican Deputy Foreign Relations Secretary Andres Rosenthal will attend the first meeting to be held 6-7 November in Geneva, Switzerland.

The objective of the Group of 15 will be to draft a plan for [words indistinct] cooperation and to analyze the world economic situation and the status of international economic relations affecting developing countries. The first summit is scheduled for the 1st quarter of 1990.

USSR's Marcha Praises Antinuclear Policy

PA0111002389 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Oct 89 p 6

[Text] Soviet Vice President Marcha I. Snegur ratified the Soviet's intention of ridding the world of the threat of nuclear war and highly praised Mexico's contribution to this crusade.

During the first working meeting between a group of Mexican legislators and a delegation of Soviet parliamentarians who are visiting Mexico, the head of the visiting delegation stated: "Mexico's position clearly reflects the very serious role it has in the process of stabilizing international relations and promoting world security."

The Soviet parliamentarians said that only through dialogue and negotiation can the world be free of nuclear arms by the year 2000. They appeared optimistic because the benefits can already be seen.

The Mexican delegation was headed by Senators Nicolas Reynes Berezaluce and Eliseo Rangel Gaspar and was comprised of eight legislators, plus PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] Senator Ifigenia Martinez Hernandez.

In the morning, the Soviet parliamentarians paid a courtesy visit to Guillermo Jimenez Morales, president of the Chamber of Deputies, to talk about seeking methods and systems to modernize both countries' government affairs and parliamentary work.

Costa Rica

Arias Says Nicaraguan Cease-Fire Needed

PA3110143689 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] President Oscar Arias has said that the cease-fire should continue in Nicaragua. He also said that he explained to the Nicaraguan president that he should not turn back the peace process.

According to Arias, the suspension of the cease-fire would create a climate of great instability, especially concerning the electoral process. Arias believes that the Nicaraguan electoral process should continue without any new obstacles, so he told Ortega that the suspension of the cease-fire would be a step backward in the progress that has been achieved within the peace process.

The Costa Rican president believes that the Sandinist leader must appeal to friendly governments and international organizations so that weapons will truly be silenced in Nicaragua. Arias added: Now that a big effort was made to unite the opposition and to nominate a candidate who represents 14 parties, I think the struggle in Nicaragua is in the political arena. Nicaragua's fate must be decided at the ballot boxes and not through an armed struggle. President Arias said: It would be very unfortunate if machine-gun fire were heard again in the Nicaraguan mountains when a civilized struggle has already begun through an electoral process, which we hope will be free and exemplary.

Although Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega promised President Arias that he would reconsider the announcement on the suspension of the cease-fire, he admitted that he is facing great pressure. There are sectors of the Sandinist government that are pressuring Commander Daniel Ortega to end the cease-fire, which was unilaterally declared in March. The pressures are due to the fact that in recent weeks incursions by armed groups of the Nicaraguan Resistance have caused several deaths. However, Arias again told him that two cannot fight if one does not want to fight.

President Arias said that appeals should be made to the United Nations, the OAS, the Spanish, Venezuelan, and Canadian Governments, and all those who believe that the struggle should be political and not military. He said: I cannot be alone in Central America. I need Spain's support, and I have requested that Felipe Gonzalez, as well as Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, help me to prevent the suspension of the cease-fire. Arias said he spoke by telephone with Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez on 30 October, not only to congratulate him on his electoral victory but also to brief him on the region's situation.

The Costa Rican president said he supports mediation to get the U.S. Government to stop supporting the rebel groups fighting the Sandinist regime. Arias said he also told U.S. authorities—whose names he did not mention— that it is important that the spirit of the Tela agreements be fulfilled; in other words, that the contras in Honduran territory be repatriated and that it be understood once and for all that the struggle is political rather than military.

El Salvador

Cristiani Says No Changes in Cease-Fire Proposal

PA0111033589 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 31 Oct 89 p 6

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said in a news conference on 30 October that there will be no changes or modifications in the government's cease-fire proposal to be presented to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in Venezuela.

He pointed out: Our proposal is complete. All we will do is expand it so there will be no more misunderstandings.

Cristiani touched upon various aspects of national life during his meeting with local and international reporters at the Presidential Palace yesterday.

Asked whether the government was considering establishing a state of siege, as a high-ranking officer said the morning after the rebels attacked the Armed Forces and Defense Ministry Joint Staff in western San Salvador, Cristiani replied that this measure might be established whenever security is at stake and people need to be protected. He added, however, that this is not the case at present. Reporters understood this to mean that there will be no state of siege.

Regarding the continuation of the dialogue scheduled for 20-21 November in Caracas, Cristiani reasserted his sincere determination to continue to seek peace for the country. Referring to the subversives' attack on the Joint Staff, he said: We want hostilities to cease because only civilians are hurt by these terrorist actions. We believe that with these actions, the FMLN is trying to make the government abandon the dialogue.

Cristiani reiterated the Army charges that the Sandinists supplied the equipment and arms used in yesterday morning's attack.

Referring to the charges by coffee-producing sectors that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] is responsible for the 28 October attack on the Mortgage Bank president, Cristiani said these are irresponsible assertions, "mere speculation, because we do not even have the results of the preliminary investigations."

Finally, Cristiani declined to express an opinion on the reforms approved by ARENA deputies because, he said, the documents of this law have not yet been received at the Presidential Palace.

Union Office Bombed; Opposition Leader Killed

Car Bomb Explodes, 6 Killed

PA3110192689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1902 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Oct (AFP)—At least six persons were killed and several injured when a car bomb exploded today outside the offices of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) in the heart of San Salvador, the police reported. The explosion occurred at 1230 (1830 GMT) and caused panic and confusion.

FENASTRAS belongs to the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), the largest national organization opposed to the government.

Further on Explosion

PA3110201889 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Live report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] [Beltran] A bomb in a car parked outside the FENSATRAS building detonated and caused a strong explosion. We can report that seven people were killed. We repeat: 7 people were killed and 12 were seriously injured....

[Studio reporter, interrupting] Where did the bomb explode?

[Beltran] At the FENASTRAS building. Labor leader Febe Elizabeth Velasquez and seven [number as heard] other people were killed. Twelve were seriously injured. Among the injured are two girls who were close to the main entrace of the FENASTRAS building. When we say that the explosion was caused by a car bomb, we mean that a pickup truck parked outside the building's main gate totally destroyed this building. Meeting at that time were leaders of [2-second break in reception] in downtown San Salvador. This is our report from the site of the explosion.

[Studio reporter] A few minutes ago a car bomb was detonated outside the FENASTRAS building. The bomb was in a pickup truck with license plate number 15242. Approximately 7 people were killed and 12 injured, including 2 minors. It was also reported that the building was destroyed. We have been informed that police units and Salvadoran Red Cross officials are at the scene.

Opposition Leader 'Still Alive'

PA3110215189 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1945 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Unscheduled live report by station reporter Mauricio Martinez]

[Text] [Announcer] Mauricio, has it been definitely determined that Febe Elizabeth Velasquez has not died? Who confirmed it?

[Martinez] Well, there are several FENASTRAS leaders who are in that area. Some say she is dead, others say no. Rescue squad members who took Velasquez to the Rosales Hospital have just confirmed that she is still receiving medical assistance.

[Announcer] Well, thank you very much, Mauricio. We will continue to report live from Rosales Hospital because our reporter Julio Rodriguez is also there and is trying to relay information to our listeners regarding this clarification. This is because none of the FENASTRAS leaders who were wounded or remained alive were certain about the condition of Velasquez, a high-ranking FENASTRAS leader. However, according to Martinez' report, it is confirmed that Velasquez is still alive. She is in a coma but definitely has not died.

Velasquez Dies in Hospital

PA3110233989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2231 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Medical sources have announced that opposition labor leader Febe Elizabeth Velasquez died in a hospital this afternoon as a result of the dynamite attack against the headquarters of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS).

The labor leader died in the operating room of the hospital where she was taken after unidentified individuals this afternoon placed a powerful explosive device at FENASTRAS headquarters, which left 7 other people dead and 30 injured.

Hospital sources confirmed at 1545 (2145 GMT) that Febe Velasquez, age 27 and the mother of three, died from severe skull injuries.

Meanwhile, a Salvadoran radio station announced that unidentified individuals this afternoon leveled machine-gun fire at a watchman, whose identity was not disclosed, in a neighborhood in northern San Salvador.

This morning, a civilian employee at the 1st Infantry Brigade was shot to death in the Miralvalle neighborhood, also in northern San Salvador.

So far no organization has claimed responsibility for these two murders or for the placement of the explosive device that destroyed the FENASTRAS headquarters.

An American identified as Mike Hammer, who was injured in the attack perpetrated by unidentified individuals [at FENASTRAS headquarters], was taken to the operating room this afternoon.

The leading opposition unions and nongovernment humanitarian organizations will hold a news conference this afternoon at the site of this morning's attack.

FMLN Blames High Command

PA0111013889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0015 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Communique by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)General Command; issued in San Salvador on 31 October—read by announcer]

[Text] Concerning the massacre at the FENASTRAS headquarters, the FMLN reports the following:

1. We blame this cowardly crime on the General Staff and Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, who yesterday promised to react to our attacks on the General Staff. It has been confirmed that the High Command is waging war against the people [words indistinct] established in San Jose regarding his view of the hostilities, that he considers popular movements to be FMLN support organizations.

2. This terrorist action, added to those committed at the university; upon the homes of political leaders; and at the headquarters of the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Committee of Mothers, Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People [COMADRES], which have resulted in 9 deaths and 46 injuries, create a new situation in the country that forces the people's struggle to implement the use of self-defense.

The FMLN had relaxed some of its positions in an effort to open a true negotiation process, but this inadmissible situation reaffirms that it is not possible to abandon the armed struggle.

3. These events carried out by the High Command and La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School] endanger the Caracas meeting.

We join in the profound grief of the popular movement and the members of FENASTRAS over their comrades' death, especially that of their beloved leader Febe Elizabeth Velasquez. All of these people are added to the growing list of victims of crimes that these sinister forces have perpetrated over the past 10 years. Only a resolute, combative struggle with weapons in hand will achieve justice for all of these crimes.

La Tandona and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] mean dictatorship and war. Everyone must go against ARENA and La Tandona.
General Command of the FMLN—Commanders (Salvador Santos Sereng), (Francisco Bovell), Shafik Jorge Handal, Eduardo Sancho, Joaquin Villalobos
31 October 1989, El Salvador

'Left Wing', Unions Call Strike

PA0111022689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0108 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Several Salvadoran left-wing parties and labor unions have scheduled a general strike on 1 November to protest the attack perpetrated today against a labor union headquarters, causing 9 deaths and injuring more than 30 people.

Seven left-wing party leaders who called the strike, humanitarian organizations, and labor unions are accusing the Army and the "most radical" sectors of the government of perpetrating the dynamite attack against the headquarters of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS).

Humberto Centeno, one of the top leaders of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), has asked the Salvadoran workers to stage a strike on 1 November beginning at 0600 (1200 GMT) throughout the country.

The opposition political and labor leaders described the dynamite attack against the FENASTRAS headquarters at noon today as a "massacre." The attack left 9 people dead and more than 30 injured.

The Armed Forces condemned the "terrorist attack" against FENASTRAS, and denied that the military perpetrated it. Centeno accused Defense Minister General Humberto Larios and ultra-rightwing deputy Roberto D'Aubuisson—linked by the opposition to the "death squads"—of the "massacre."

"We must stop work tomorrow as a sign of grief and mourning, and attend the burials of our massacred comrades," Centeno said.

The attack on FENASTRAS is the second attack perpetrated against opposition organizations in the past 24 hours, following a guerrilla attack on the Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff on 30 October, which caused the death of 1 civilian and injured 15 people.

Army, Government Criticized

PA0111043489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1057 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Oct (AFP)—Guillermo Ungo, the top Salvadoran leftist leader, has held the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces "absolutely responsible for the massacre" perpetrated this afternoon against the leading Salvadoran union , which resulted in 7 dead and at least 36 injured.

At the site of the attack, Ungo, who was accompanied by other leftist leaders as well as representatives of humanitarian organizations, said he was "dismayed and worried" because this action "confirms the state terrorism repressing the Salvadoran people."

Ungo, secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] and coordinator of Democratic Convergence, a coalition of leftist parties, said the attack against the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation "brings to mind the first years of this decade when mass terror overwhelmed the country."

Also today, a powerful bomb exploded in San Salvador in the early morning and destroyed the office of the

Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People in El Salvador. Four people, including a U.S. citizen and a 6-month-old baby, were injured.

According to Ungo, today's two attacks "appear to be immediate revenge actions" by the Army and the government in reprisal for the attack that urban guerrillas launched against the Armed Forces headquarters in San Salvador on 30 October.

In addition, Eduardo Colindres, leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], expressed his "deep" concern over the "polarization of forces in the country" as a result of the arrival in power of the far right ARENA led by Alfredo Cristiani.

Since its creation, ARENA has been regarded as "warmongering and sponsor of the death squads," said Colindres, who condemned the attack on FENASTRAS.

Colindres "appealed to common sense" so all sectors, "no matter what coloration, can work in the search for peace through dialogue and negotiation, which are more urgent now." He also said: "If this escalation of violence continues, there will be more grief, suffering, and war in our country."

Ungo said that those who perpetrated the massacre against the union federation, where FENASTRAS leader Febe Elizabeth Velasquez was killed, "are undoubtedly military and warmongering sectors bent on making a political solution fail."

In addition, Ungo asked the international community not to be deceived by Cristiani's government, which he described as "fascist." Ungo bitterly criticized the intransigency of Cristiani's government in the dialogue with the rebels, stating that the government, before demanding a cessation of hostilities by the guerrillas, "should promptly seek ways to stop the violation of human rights of the people, union members, and religious and political leaders."

Today's attacks occurred a few hours after the FMLN rebels announced a new political and military campaign to pressure the government into establishing a bilateral cease-fire with the guerrillas.

State of Siege Possible

PA0111052389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0315 GMT 1 Nov 89

[By unidentified reporter—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] 1st Infantry Brigade Commander Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes has said that the attack on FENASTRAS could be the result of an internal purge within the groups which support the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. Col Elena Fuentes also said that the government could decree a state of siege given the wave of violence afflicting in the country. The high-ranking military commander categorically denied that the Army is involved in the placing of a powerful bomb at the FENASTRAS headquarters, which resulted in several deaths.

Col Elena Fuentes said that the Armed Forces' professional training does not allow for this type of action because the Armed Forces have legal procedures that could be implemented for any event. The 1st Infantry Brigade commander asserted that this action is part of the purges carried out by the FMLN when the general command believes that a mass leader has became an obstacle—or simply does not work in the guerrilla organization's mass scheme.

[Elena] "They are trying to eliminate certain leaders like they eliminated others, including Marcial [Salvador Cayeteno Carpio, former top FMLN leader who commited suicide in 1983] and [Melida] Anaya Montes, whom they eliminated in Nicaragua. I believe that the FMLN leaders are to blame for the elimination of these people. I believe that they are either eliminating some leaders or are planning something to hinder the dialogue process. Above all, I believe—and I am pretty sure about this—that the FMLN is divided , although the main leaders participate in the dialogue. Other FMLN spokesmen and activists, and their front groups, have been carrying out terrorist activities."

Col Elena Fuentes also revealed the possibility of decreeing a state of siege because the capital has been the site of violent incidents in the past few hours, and this cannot continue, he emphasized.

[Col Elena Fuentes] "We [words indistinct] the high command's orders and [words indistinct] the government that, if necessary, the state of siege could be decreed. I believe this would be advisable to avoid further unnecessary deaths and give the civilian population some respite from the latest FMLN attacks."

Cristiani Sends Condolences

PA0111050489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0433 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani tonight condemned "terrorist" dynamite attacks against a union and a humanitarian organization, which killed 9 people and injured 36 and expressed his condolences to the victims' relatives.

"I hereby express my heartfelt condolences to the mourning families. These terrorist actions cannot be justified at all," Cristiani said through a national radio and television network. He warned: "We will conduct the necessary investigations to identify those responsible so they can be severely punished."

He reiterated, however, that the official dialogue commission will go to Caracas on 20 November determined to "make the talks with the guerrillas fruitful and find a political solution to the armed conflict."

Opposition union leaders attributed the dynamite attacks to "recalcitrant government and Army sectors who oppose the dialogue."

Cristiani, who offered protection to "those who feel threatened" by these attacks, said there are groups who want to raise obstacles in the way of peace. "These actions are useless. Violence and terrorism lead nowhere," he finally said.

Explosion in San Salvador Injures U.S. Citizen

PA3110125989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1214 GMT 31 Oct 89

[By Rene Hurtado]

[Text] There was a strong explosion early this morning. A bomb went off at the building of the Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero Committee of Mothers, Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People in El Salvador, located on North Second Avenue between 15th and East 17th Streets. The explosion did extensive damage to this office, and three persons were seriously injured, including U.S. citizen Brenda Hubbard, 41. Also injured were Lucio Gutierrez and 4-month-old Elmer Antonio Alvarenga, son of Argentina Alvarenga. They were taken to a hospital by the Red Cross.

The explosive device, which went off at 0230 [0830 GMT], damaged the committee's building. Red Cross workers rushed to the scene to take the injured to the hospital. The blast was heard all over San Salvador.

I repeat: U.S. citizen Brenda Hubbard, Lucio Gutierrez, and Elmer Alvarenga were injured. They were taken to different hospitals by the Red Cross because they sustained serious injuries due to the intensity of the explosion, which destroyed the Committee's offices.

Armed Forces Deny Involvement

PA3110223489 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The bomb attack that has been perpetrated by unidentified individuals against the office of the Oscar Arnulfo Romero Committee of Mothers, Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People, left four wounded and substantial property damage.

National Union of Salvadoran Workers, UNTS, spokesmen said that one of the wounded is U.S. citizen Brenda Hubbard, two COMADRES activists identified only as Pablo and Margarita, and a 4-month-old minor identified as Nelson Antonio.

The UNTS members said that persons living near the office, located in the San Miguelito district of this capital, noticed that the attackers were soldiers in uniform.

The COMADRES members have scheduled a news conference at 0900 today at the site of the attack, during which they will report on the condition of the people wounded in the explosion and the amount of property damage, which took place at 0215 today.

The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, denied any responsibility for the attack and instead blamed the FMLN. According to Coprefa, all the FMLN has tried to do with this attack is to paper over yesterday's foiled attack against the Armed Forces General Staff.

In another report, the Armed Forces claimed in a report that they inflicted eight casualties on the FMLN in fighting during the last few hours in several parts of the country. The military report points out that troops engaged insurgents in the villages of Chiapas, Tamulasco, and Tepeyac, all of which are in the jurisdiction of Chalatenango, Chalatenango Department. One guerrilla was killed, and four guerrillas and one soldier were wounded in this action.

In addition, in a battle at (Finca Catorce), jurisdiction of Quezaltepeque, La Libertad, a rebel was killed and two were wounded. The military report adds that early today three harassment actions against Civil Defense posts were reported. These took place in San Jose Aguacatitan, jurisdiction of San Marcos; (El Carrizalillo) Canton, in Metapan, Santa Ana; and against members of the Artillery Brigade in Ilobasco, Cabanas Department. No casualties were reported on either side during these actions.

Finally, according to a police report, alleged urban guerrilla commandos this morning killed an employee of the 1st Infantry Brigade in San Salvador. This incident took place at 0430 today between San Antonio Abad Street and ANTEL - [National Administration for Telecommunications] (Montebello), in the western sector of the capital. The victim was identified as Juan Carlos Merios. He was an administrative official of the 1st Infantry Brigade. According to the coroner's report, Merios' body had four bullet wounds.

FMLN-FDR Weapons Cache Found in Arambala

PA3110184989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Oct 89 pp 12, 33

[Text] San Francisco Gotera, Morazan—An underground weapons cache where the terrorists were hiding a large amount of weapons was discovered by combined troops of the 4th military detachment commanded by Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa, and the Arce Battalion commanded by Colonel Roberto Tejara Murcia, during a joint operation in the region on the afternoon of 28 October.

The cache was found in Las Marias Canton, Arambala jurisdiction, a township located 12 km north of Gotera near the Honduran border. The township had been abandoned by its inhabitants because of the siege to which they were subjected by the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front].

The weapons were found when the intelligence unit vanguard troops found a piece of tube that was used as an air vent for the cache. The path of the tube was followed and the weapons hideout was thus discovered, protected by booby traps which were defused.

A search of the arms cache was made, and a black box was found with markings, apparently from the place where the shipment was made. Found inside black plastic bags were 26 M-16 rifles, 3 Czechoslovak-made rifles, 1 Edisson rifle, 1 recoilless rifle, 1 Garant, 2 .22-caliber rifles, 4 grenade launchers, 2 M-60 machine guns, 48 FAL rifles, 12 G-3 rifles, 2 carbines, 4 12-gauge shotguns, gunpowder, an electric generator with two motors, slow-burning fuses, detonators, and other material.

Colonels Corado and Tejada Murcia, who accompanied reporters to the place where the weapons were found yesterday morning, said that the Army's presence in that zone proves the falseness of the statements made by the FMLN-FDR terrorists who claimed to be in control of that territory. "The Army is where it wants to be whenever it wants, and what the alleged FMLN-FDR commanders do is flee and kill innocent peasants wherever they pass," the military stated.

The officers noted that this region was one of the most productive regions of Morazan Department and was abandoned by its inhabitants in view of the threats by the terrorists.

Corado said that during the "Atlacatl" operation the military troops inflicted several casualties on the FMLN-FDR, destroyed camps, and took in several deserters, who gave them information that is being studied by military intelligence.

For his part, Colonel Tejada Murcia praised the few inhabitants of the region whose homes have been attacked by the FMLN.

Las Marias Canton, a wooded region of pine trees, has several homes that were abandoned by persons who engaged in exploiting pine trees or in farming activities appropriate to this humid region.

The weapons, many of them rusty because of the humidity, were taken to San Francisco Goterra Garrison where they were inventoried and registered. This will allow military intelligence to determine the origin of the weapons, most of which were taken to Nicaragua through Honduran territory, according to preliminary investigations.

FMLN Denounces Honduran Army 'Incursions'

PA3110163489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Statement issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) Political and Military Directorate in Chalatengo Department on 29 October]

[Text] The FMLN Political and Military Directorate denounces the Honduran Army's repression and incursions into our territory in Chalatenango. We recall that on 15, 17, and 25 October we report similar situations where serious human rights violations were committed against civilians living in the village of Cualtimaca and other villages in the area between Arcatao and Nombre de Jesus Jurisdictions. Now we report new violations in El Salvador.

On 28 October, Honduran soldiers and a commanding officer perpetrated yet another act of provocation by entering our territory at Chupa Miel village, Arcatao. The first incursion was carried out at 0800. When the Honduran soldiers were taken by surprise by our combat units, they were forced to move to Los Monges village in Honduras. They left behind a cartridge clip for an M-16 rifle. At 1710 the Honduran soldiers entered again, and a 40-minute clash with our units ensued. The Honduran troops were forced to withdraw.

So far, we do not know the number of casualties inflicted on the Honduran Army. The abovementioned incidents constitute a greater level of provocation and a violation of our sovereignty by the Honduran Army. We hold the Jose Azcona government responsible for these violations of the Tela accords. We reiterate to our people our firm determination to defend the sovereignty of our territory.

FMLN Political and Military Directorate in Chalatenango.

29 October 1989

Rebels Attack 4th Infantry Brigade, Ambush Convoy

PA0111030389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0050 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces today attacked the 4th Infantry Brigade's installations in El Refugio, Chalatenango Department. The report indicates that guerrilla forces attacked the 4th Infantry Brigade's installations at 0300 with artillery pieces, hitting the sleeping quarters and lookout positions. Five 4th Infantry Brigade casualties have been confirmed so far. Let us all be against ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy, most of whom hold top positions in Salvadoran Armed Forces] to the end!

Furthermore, today at 1150 guerrilla forces, in combination with militia forces, ambushed a military truck convoy moving from east to west on the coastal highway, near the place known as La Finquita, Tecoluca Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department. The strength of our attack resulted in one heavily damaged truck and seven casualties.

Honduras

Contras Declare 4,000 Troops in Nicaragua on Alert

PA3110204589 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 31 Oct 89 p 36

[Text] The Nicaraguan rebels have declared their troops in Nicaragua on a state of alert in view of the resumption of offensive operations by the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), but they said that the forces in Honduras will not leave to confront the war because they do not have the power to be able to withstand an attack such as that announced by Daniel Ortega.

The leaders of the contras, Enrique Bermudez and "Ruben," supported by the United States, made statements to newsmen in Tegucigalpa yesterday regarding the Nicaraguan president's announcement to suspend, beginning on Monday, a unilateral cease-fire in view of an increase of rebel offensive operations in Nicaragua. Bermudez, known as Commander "380," expressed the hope that in the face of the offensive by the EPS troops, George Bush will manage to achieve a change in the U.S. foreign policy and will provide military aid to the anti-Sandinist rebels.

"If the Sandinists launch an offensive, we hope that Bush can make a 180-degree turn in U.S. policy," the contra leader told foreign newsmen.

Commander "Ruben," member of the rebel general staff based in Yamales, El Paraiso, said that what the Sandinist government wants is to destroy the resistance before the February elections in Nicaragua.

He said that the Sandinists planned to eliminate the contras with the suspension of U.S. military aid, later with the Tela agreements on the demobilization, and now "they want to annihilate us militarily."

"Ruben" stated that contra forces were not involved in attacks against EPS troops in Nicaragua in which the Nicaraguan Government reported 20 dead, adding that it was an invention by the Sandinists.

Bermudez said that the Nicaraguan Resistance delivered to the members of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), Hugo de Zela and Francesco Vandrell, a proposal for the Sandinist government to create a commission to conduct an on-the-spot investigation of violations of the cease-fire.

He said that this commission should be formed by Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. "They do not accuse us of violations, and we are not accusing them. The only way to prove it is with an international commission on the spot," Bermudez stated.

In view of the announced Sandinist offensive, the contra military commanders did not appear to have the fighting spirit that they tried to exhibit during the visit of the CIAV members to Yamales on 12 October.

Bermudez stated that in the face of a Sandinist offensive there would be an unequal battle, because "we have not received a single cartridge since February 1988, while they have received $1 billion in military aid from the Soviets."

The contra commanders stated that they have placed some 4,000 rebel troops in Nicaragua on a state of alert, in view of Ortega's announcement that offensive operations will be resumed.

They said that they have instructed their forces to remain in defensive positions and not attack government troops.

"We are not in a position to be able to withstand a large offensive," Commander "Ruben" stated. He said that none of the contra forces based in Honduras will mobilize toward Nicaragua to confront the offensive.

He said that contra forces in Nicaragua could retreat toward Honduras.

He also stated that his forces will continue to respect the cease-fire and elections in Nicaragua.

They said that the Nicaraguan Government seeks to annihilate the contras because of the slow demobilization process, but that they are not willing to return to Nicaragua unless a commission is formed to verify the fulfillment of the cease-fire.

They indicated that they are willing to engage in direct negotiations with the Sandinist government.

"Ruben" said that "we propose dialogue, while they propose a cease-fire," demonstrating that the Nicaraguans are the ones who are advocating war.

Some 12,000 contras and their families have been receiving humanitarian aid from the United States since February 1989.

Nicaragua

Controversy Over Cease-Fire Suspension

Ortega, Borge Discuss Issue

PA3110182989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1754 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Oct (DPA)—Anti-Sandinist commandos attacked peasant cooperative installations in the Nicaraguan municipality of San Miguelito, San Carlos Department, last night killing 5 people, including "several women," it was reported here today.

It was also reported that a group of anti-Sandinist "contras" tried to occupy a highway that leads to the municipality of San Pedro de Lovago in Chontales Department in the eastern region of Nicaragua, but were repelled by Sandinist People's Army (EPS) troops. During the clash four contras were killed.

It was learned that after these incidents President Ortega, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge met to discuss the decision to suspend the unilateral cease-fire, which the government has implemented during the past 19 months to permit a political alternative to the elections, scheduled for February 1990.

Leaders Visit Contra Attack Site

PA3110194089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Managua, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega went today to the Nicaraguan town of San Miguelito where four civilians were killed and five were wounded in a "contra" attack that took place on 28 October. San Miguelito is near the Costa Rican border.

The official government radio station, "La Voz de Nicaragua," reported today that Ortega had traveled to the town in a Sandinist Air Force helicopter and was accompanied by Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega, Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge, and international observers of the Nicaraguan electoral process.

The Nicaraguan president visited the cooperative of the small town of San Miguelito, which—according to the Defense Ministry—was attacked by a "contra" group on 30 October. During the attack, the "contras" killed four civilians, wounded five, and kidnapped a woman.

Ortega was scheduled to announce the end of the cease-fire period today that had been decreed unilaterally by the Nicaraguan Government and had been in effect since March 1988. The Sandinist Government had extended the cease-fire on a monthly basis.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto summoned the diplomatic corps accredited in Nicaragua today to explain the Sandinist Government's reasons for not continuing the cease-fire.[passage omitted]

Communique Names Casualties

PA3110203989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1950 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Three members of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], President Daniel Ortega, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge, traveled this morning to the site where, on 30 October, the contras killed five civilians near San Miguelito, Rio San Juan Department, and where President Ortega may announce the suspension of the unilateral cease-fire. It is estimated, however, that the government could extend the cease-fire until 5 December, the date when the contras should be demobilized from Honduras.

During the criminal contra attack on an agricultural cooperative, five women were also wounded, according to the following Defense Ministry communique.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] News Bulletin:

On 30 October 1989 at 2230, mercenary groups attacked Santa Elena Cooperative, located east of San Miguelito in Rio San Juan Department. Four civilians were killed, five were injured, and one was kidnapped during this criminal action. The civilians killed are: Apolinar Luna, Justo Luna, Humberto Reyes, and Ramon Reyes, who was a policeman at Vote Counting Board No 801. The injured civilians are: Tamariz Gaitan Sequeira, Alicia Gaitan Sequeira, Juana Gaitan Sequeira, Celestino Luna, and Socorro Alvarez. The kidnapped civilian is Teresa Sequeira Aguilar.

International Influence on Issue

PA3110195389 Managua Sistema Sandinista de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The government decision to suspend the cease-fire of offensive operations will depend on U.S. President Bush's willingness to stop hindering the demobilization of the contras. It will also depend on the international community's efforts in this regard. The final and official announcement is expected tomorrow.

President Ortega said Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem's visit to Nicaragua is the first specific step expressing Latin American concern over the situation the U.S. created by blocking and preventing contra demobilization according to the Tela agreements. Prior to the hemispheric presidential summit in Costa Rica, Latin America did not show much interest in the contras' demobilization.

During the cessation of offensive operations—from March 1988 to the present—out of a total of 1,370 casualties, the contras killed 726 people, most of them civilians. This compelled the government to consider suspending the unilateral cease-fire. The official announcement depends on efforts conducted by the international community with President Bush, so that he allows the normal development of the electoral process and the demobilization of the contras.

[Ortega] "We are analyzing the decision. However, we could reconsider this decision depending on the international community's efforts."

Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem said he will work in this regard because he is worried and wants to prevent further destabilization in Central America.

[Menem] "We will try to make efforts so the Tela agreements are fulfilled."

This measure is already being supported by various political sectors in Nicaragua. It is expected that President Ortega will make the official announcement on 31 October.

Ortega Postpones Decision

PA0111023789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0203 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—A source within the Nicaraguan Presidency announced today that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has postponed until tomorrow, 1 November, his announcement on the extension or suspension of the cease-fire with the contras, which was unilaterally declared in March 1988.

Late today, the Managua government unexpectedly canceled a press conference in which it was to announce the extension of the truce, or confirm that it would end. The cease-fire expires tonight at 2400 (0600 GMT).

The postponement of the official announcement on the cease-fire comes after Ortega declared in San Jose, Costa Rica on 27 October that he would suspend the truce.

Reports from Washington indicate that the firm opposition of the Latin American heads of state forced Ortega to retract his announcement that he would suspend the cease-fire.

Major U.S. newspapers described Ortega as "warmongering," and others applied harsh terms to the Nicaraguan president, who they described as "obstinate and heartless."

Ortega said that his government would not extend the truce because of the increase in armed attacks carried out by the contras over the past few weeks, which left 19 Sandinist soldiers dead and resulted in the death of four civilians yesterday.

The Nicaraguan head of state today went to San Miguelito, a Nicaraguan town near the border with Costa Rica, where four civilians were killed and five were wounded in an attack by the rebels on 23 October.

In addition, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported tonight that over the past 3 days there has been fighting in the south Atlantic region, and in central and northern Nicaragua with a toll of eight dead, of whom five were Sandinist soldiers and three were contras.

Ortega traveled to that town in the company of Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, Interior Minister Tomas Borge, and a U.S. diplomat accredited to Managua.

He was also accompanied by UN and OAS observers of the Nicaraguan electoral process, who—according to official sources—were witnesses to the drama being experienced by the inhabitants of that area, where the four civilians died.

At first, official sources had reported that Ortega would hold a news conference at noon and would announce the government's position on this controversial matter, but the conference was suspended and scheduled for tomorrow at 0530 (1130 GMT) [as received].

Managua on Postponement

PA0111033389 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega met today with Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega and Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge to analyze the situation concerning the cease-fire. The meeting lasted several hours. At the conclusion, it was announced that President Ortega will reveal the government's decision about the cease-fire 1 November.

Contacts were still being carried out today with several Latin American foreign ministries, Washington, and New York to start negotiations on the topic.

Government Announces Suspension

PA0111124189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1111 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Nov (DPA)—The Nicaraguan Government today decided to suspend the unilateral cease-fire to face military actions by the contras, who have reemerged in Nicaragua. It is estimated that approximately 1,100 rebels have come into Nicaragua from Honduras.

A communique issued by the government this morning stated that it has called the representatives of Honduras and the contras for a meeting in the United Nations to discuss the demobilization of the rebels.

It also asked the government of the United States to undertake international efforts in favor of peace and the electoral process in Nicaragua.

In recent days, the contras have been responsible for a number of terrorist actions to boycott the elections.

Issues Official Communique

PA0111133689 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1304 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Official communique issued by the Presidency of Nicaragua in Managua on 1 November]

[Text] Communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic: The Government of Nicaragua, which is intensely striving for peace, informs the international and local public that in the past 20 days the infiltration of mercenary forces has increased, from their bases in Honduran territory toward Nicaragua's Regions 5 and 6. In the past 3 weeks, over 1,110 mercenaries have entered our country taking advantage of the cease-fire unilaterally ordered by the Nicaraguan Government and have used the humanitarian aid approved by the U.S. Congress to conduct their criminal actions. Because of their infiltration, the number of attacks on civilian, economic, and military objectives has dramatically increased with the ensuing loss of Nicaraguan lives. These actions are aimed at sabotaging the agreement on the demobilization of mercenary forces signed by the five Central

American presidents in Tela, Honduras. The goal is also to prevent the smooth progress of the electoral process.

In the face of such incidents, the Nicaraguan Government is now undertaking emergency efforts with different governments, political personalities, and international institutions and organizations to strengthen the peace process disrupted by the warmongering escalation of counterrevolutionary bands.

The Government of Nicaragua urges the U.S. Government to support this international effort favoring peace and the smooth progress of the electoral process that will culminate in the 25 February 1990 elections.

The Nicaraguan Government, seeking to strengthen the various steps the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] has been promoting to implement the Tela agreements, is calling a meeting at the UN headquarters on 6 and 7 November between the Governments of Honduras and Nicaragua, the CIAV, and a representative of the counterrevolution—to decide on logistical and technical aspects which will promote their return to the country and their integration into the political process of the people involved in counterrevolutionary activities, or their relocation to third countries, as established in the Tela agreements.

The Nicaraguan Government hopes the international efforts will provide, as soon as possible, the end of the bloodshed provoked by counterrevolutionary actions, and that this will facilitate the full compliance of the agreement for the demobilization of the contras by 5 December 1989.

The Nicaraguan Government reaffirms once again that, regardless of the attitude adopted by the mercenary forces, it will ensure the normal development of the electoral process and the security of international observers in their task of monitoring throughout the country until the elections are over on 25 February 1990.

To the extent the various aforementioned actions result specifically in the systematic demobilization of the contras, the ending of mercenary infiltrations and their terrorist activities, the Nicaraguan Government will be in a position to reinstate again the unilateral declaration of a cease-fire as it has been doing since March 1988.
Managua 1 November, 1989

Ortega Calls Chamorro, UNO U.S. 'Pawns'

PA3110192989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1618 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Madrid, 31 Oct (AFP)—In exclusive comments published by the Spanish newspaper EL MUNDO, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has said opposition candidate Violeta Chamorro and the parties that make up UNO [National Opposition Union] "are mere pawns of the United States."

Ortega feels his true political rival "is named (George) Bush," "as long as he maintains the trade blockade" and his policy of "keeping mercenary forces (contras) in Honduran territory."

At the time of this interview, President Ortega was considering the "possibility" of ending the cease-fire against the contras, which was announced last weekend during Costa Rica's hemispheric summit. "I have met," he told EL MUNDO, "with the commands of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), the Interior Ministry, and the Army, and I find their concerns are very reasonable," he said regarding the "terrorist (activities) against the Nicaraguan people and their electoral process."

"We reserve every right to defend Nicaragua," Ortega replied when asked if there would be a military incursion into Honduran territory to attack the "contra" havens.

Regarding the elections on 25 February 1990 and their results, Ortega maintains his idea that "true power cannot be handed over because that power lies with the people."

"What one does hand over in an election is a share of power," he added. "In these elections, the fact is that the majority of the people support the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], which already won the elections."

The president felt that "the only thing that could happen is that the FSLN will garner more votes than is expected." He believes polls are distorted "to foster an opinion unfavorable to the revolutionary process."

"Then they will say the polls showed the FSLN would lose (the elections), but since it won them (sic), they will cry there was fraud," Daniel Ortega commented.

According to Ortega, the upcoming elections represent "a confrontation between the revolution and the past." "The United States supports the past. Just as they supported Somoza, they are now supporting UNO," he added.

Violeta Chamorro Says Ortega 'Wants War'

PA2910004189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] San Jose, 28 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro asserted today in San Jose that her country's president "wants war," when commenting on the announcement by the Nicaraguan president that he will not extend the cease-fire with the "contras," which has been in effect since March 1988.

"Daniel Ortega wants war; we (the opposition) do not; we advocate peace and democracy," Chamorro said.

Virgilio Godoy, Nicaraguan opposition vice presidential candidate, questioned the reasoning behind suspending the cease-fire: the killing of 17 peasant reservists on 22

October while on their way to register to vote who, Ortega said, fell into an ambush laid by the contras.

Godoy said there are many "doubts" about the fighting because it looked more like "confrontations among government units" than an attack by the contras.

Chamorro and Godoy have been in San Jose since October 19. They were invited to be present in this capital during the summit of 17 democratically elected hemispheric heads of state that opened on 27 October and will close today.

Ortega is in the Costa Rican capital for the same reason. Last night, he announced that he will not extend the suspension of hostilities and will continue the war against the contras. This was immediately described by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as an "excuse" to suspend the elections of 25 February in Nicaragua.

Security Chief on Role of Security Directorate

PA3110214489 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Oct 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Commander [Lenin] Cerna, chief of the General Directorate of State Security [DGSE], told EL NUEVO DIARIO in an interview that well-armed counterrevolutionary groups have been entering northern Nicaragua over the past few weeks with the express intention of killing those who do not support the right-wing.

Cerna added that the mercenary groups bring plans to carry out criminal and terrorist attacks against settlements and cooperatives located north of Jinotega Department.

Cerna added that the DGSE has learned of another type of activity the contras are carrying out mainly in the areas of San Juan de Rio Coco and Quilali. There the contras have undertaken a campaign of terror and intimidation to get the peasants to register, under threat, so that they can vote for the so-called right-wing alliance UNO [National Opposition Union].

Several peasants have already been killed because they have refused to follow such "instructions," the high-ranking officer said, after cautioning that faced with the counterrevolution's terrorist plans: "We cannot ensure that the electoral process will develop peacefully."

Cerna said that he is quite worried because the contras rejected the demobilization plan approved by the Central American presidents in August, and because contra groups are entering the country with the purpose of obstructing the electoral process.

Cerna added that the most recent public and secret information received by the DGSE reveals the existence of a large counterrevolutionary group headed by former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez and other mercenaries, such as "Renato," "Franklin", and "Jimmy Leo," who are responsible for a long list of crimes against the people. Jimmy Leo is a notorious murderer from the Pantasma area.

The aforementioned contra leaders are leading what can be considered the last armed force the contras have. Their instructions come directly from the CIA, which is "manipulating the strings of this dying puppet."

Cerna said that objectively speaking there is a definite link between UNO and the contras. "This is not speculation; the link can be seen in photographs, statements, and meetings held abroad by leaders of the UNO and the contras."

Cerna is convinced that the link exists; UNO itself would have to prove otherwise. Even though proof is not yet available to link UNO leaders with the criminal and terrorist activities in northern Nicaragua, "the link shown in their statements of mutual support is absolutely damning."

Cerna said that the DGSE plays a secondary role in the current electoral process because partisan activities are completely legal. "Our activity is mainly designed to prevent and neutralize anything that affects the security of the revolutionary state," he added.

The Electoral Police, created by the Supreme Electoral Council, has the main role in the electoral process. Nevertheless, according to its regulations and to the laws of the country, the DGSE must observe and follow up on the different activities that might affect the electoral process.

The DGSE is a professional organization that strictly follows the laws of the country. Because of its success in defusing terrorist activities and other efforts to destabilize the revolution, the reaction both fears and respects the DGSE. Consequently, the reactionaries constantly try to discredit the DGSE and have charged that, of late, reactionary political activists are being persecuted.

"If several leaders of UNO or any other group are carrying out activities against the people, they should know that the DGSE is aware of their actions and activities," Cerna said, adding that the accusations by the right are absurd, because "we do not have to follow them each step of the way to know what they are doing."

The Interior Ministry will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 17 October. The DGSE is part of the Interior Ministry and functions according to revolutionary principles, such as respect for personal well-being. Cerna said that the DGSE has always followed [Interior Minister] Commander Tomas Borge's instructions that "it is more important to achieve something by respecting someone's life than to achieve something by taking someone's life."

Issued in Managua on 31 October, 1989 [end recording]

Ruiz, Shipman Hold Cooperation Talks With Libya

LD3010150189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Arab Libyan-Nicaraguan talks began this morning at the headquarters of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The talks were attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury and Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation. They were also attended by the general secretary and director of International Cooperation Department at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and William Shipman, Nicaraguan finance minister, and the ambassador of Nicaragua to the Great Jamahiriyah. These talks focused on consolidating and developing existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua.

Rebels Report Victims in Recent Sandinist Attacks

PA3110180489 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] The rebel organization called "Southern Front" reported today that one of its units was attacked recently by the Sandinist "Pedro Altamirano" Battalion in the El Zapotal area in southern Zelaya Department. The report added that two rebels known as "Taltusa" and "Benjamin" were killed during the attack.

The organization also reported that Pedro Urbina Urbina, also known as "Garrobo," and Jose Luis Urbina Mendoza were killed during another Sandinist attack in southern Zelaya Department. The rebels further reported that Arsenio Lopez Centeno, or "Alacran," was also killed.

The communique, received at LA PRENSA's telefax machine, stated that a Sandinist patrol recently killed the peasants Pastor Gomez Rodriguez, Saturnino Murillo, and Gilberto Robles.

The communique noted that the Sandinist unit that attacked them is called "KGB" and is formed by Captains Marvin Castellon and Wilfredo Barreto and Lieutenants Ramon Jarquin and Terencio Toledo.

Defense Ministry 'Bulletin' Reports Rebel Attacks

PA3110174689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Oct 89 p 4

[Text] A Defense Ministry bulletin has reported that mercenary forces that openly resist demobilization and boycott the Nicaraguan electoral process have mounted several harrassment attacks on EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops and civilian targets that have resulted in innocent victims. The following is a list of the mercenary forces' biggest actions in the past few days:

An EPS company was attacked in Cano El Perro, located north of Matiguas Municipality, Matagalpa Department, on 28 October. The action left two EPS soldiers dead and two wounded.

On the same day, an Army unit was attacked in Cerro El Gallo, northeast of La Gateada in Chontales Department. The action left two comrades dead and two wounded.

The mercenary forces also attacked a company in the San Benito area, north of Matiguas, Matagalpa Department, on 28 October. One comrade was wounded in this attack.

An EPS unit was attacked in Sacalis, northern Jinotega Department, on 29 October. During the attack, a comrade was killed and three were wounded. One of the mercenaries was also killed.

Contras Attack EPS Post in San Miguelito

PA3110175689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Oct (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today reported that five members of the Sandinist Army were killed and eight were wounded in new attacks by contra groups in northern and central Nicaragua on 28 and 29 October.

A Defense Ministry bulletin published by BARRICADA today indicated that the contra attacks occurred in Matagalpa and Chontales Departments in northern and central Nicaragua.

The official bulletin does not indicate whether the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) forces sustained any casualties, but military sources reported that the insurgents sustained six dead and three wounded.

The Army also reported that today the rebels attacked a military post in San Miguelito, Rio San Juan Department, in southern Nicaragua. The initial report does not report any casualties.

As a result of the new outbreak of guerrilla attacks, the Sandinist government warned over the weekend that it will suspend the unilateral cease-fire in force since March 1988. This announcement unleashed strong criticism from U.S. and Latin American governments, which said that the suspension would endanger the Central American peace proces and the 25 February general elections in Nicaragua.

Radio Reports Obando Replaced in Church Position

PA3110170289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1205 GMT 28 Oct 89

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has been replaced as president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference as a result of a decision made by that Catholic ecclesiastical organization.

Following a 2-day meeting, the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference decided to replace Cardinal Obando with Msgr Salvador Schaeffer, bishop of the city of Bluefields.

Schaeffer was kidnapped last year by the contras when he was returning from a religious mission in the northern Atlantic Region.

It was learned that Cardinal Obando y Bravo will be the Church's media spokesman and that he was confirmed as the Nicaraguan representative to the Latin American Episcopal Conference, CELADI.

The cardinal has not liked making statements to national media representatives, with the exception of a few. However, this is something that may change in view of his new post.

New President Asks for Support

PA3110172389 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 October 89 p 4

[Text] Msgr Salvador Schaeffer, the newly appointed president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, greeted the Nicaraguan people and said that he hopes to have the support of all the other bishops and devotees in the fulfillment of his duties.

Schaeffer, in a brief handwritten message for LA PRENSA, stated that his new post "is difficult and full of problems. I hope to have the support of the other nine bishops, the priests, the laymen, and the devotees."

The apostolic vicar of Bluefields said that in order to carry out his new post "I trust in God, who is ever present with the church."

Schaeffer said that "I am still deeply moved by the results of the election held on 26 October when I was elected president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference for a 2-year term.

"I ask the Nicaraguans to pray for me and for all the bishops during these times that God has given us to promote real peace in Nicaragua," he concluded.

Panama

U.S. Armed Forces Hinder IRHE Activities

PA3110125589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Oct 89 pp 1, B-16

[Text] According to information provided to this newspaper, the U.S. Armed Forces are obstructing the work of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE). The information we have received is as follows:

The U.S. forces have refused to authorize IRHE overflights to inspect electric transmission lines.

In view of the power outages that have recently plagued electrical service in Panama City, the IRHE sought, as it has in the past when necessary, authorization to perform an aerial (helicopter) inspection of transmission lines 230-3 and 230-4, which form part of the national power grid. These lines cross defense and military coordination areas under American control in the Panama Canal area. However, the American contingent in the Joint Committee refused authorization for the overflight, even though the lines have an established right of way and were built prior to the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Moreover, these flights have been arranged in the past with no incidents or problems. However, this time there is evidence of the U.S. Government's policy of disregarding Panama's sovereign rights.

It should be noted that the IRHE seeks to provide efficient service, but the recent power outages have been caused by damage to the transmission lines in question, which makes inspection necessary.

U.S. Troop Maneuvers Reported in Gamboa

PA3110150989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] U.S. soldiers supported by armored equipment and combat helicopters and airplanes briefly seized the town of Gamboa, located along the Panama Canal, while engaging in new military maneuvers. The troops entered the town that is located 40 km from Panama City, took up combat positions, and deployed antiaircraft cannon, mortar and heavy machine-gun batteries. Witnesses reported the U.S. soldiers aimed their weapons at civilians and the Panama Defense Forces installations located in that sector, after entrenching themselves in the town park and areas outside the school, church, and other buildings.

Gamboa was seized for the first time during a war rehearsal on 1 July 1989, at the onset of an unprecedented escalation by the Southern Command's military units stationed in Panama. Panamanian spokesmen noted that exercises outside the defense sites, which are granted to the United States until 1999, constitute a violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

FDP Unit Statement on La Chorrera Incident

PA0111012289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2358 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The General Command of the Defense and Security Commission, COGECODESE, of the Panama Defense Forces, in view of the increased military operations being carried out by the U.S. Armed Forces in areas other than defense sites and military coordination areas without due coordination with binational organizations, calls on the community in general to be alert to this increased U.S. aggression against the health and public security of the Republic of Panama in open defiance of the commitments made in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

COGECODESE informs the Panamanian community that the U.S. military operations outside of areas provided for them, as well as the mobilization of convoys, must be the result of consultation and coordination with binational organizations. Nevertheless, the U.S. forces,

ignoring this requirement, continue to harass and intimidate the Panamanian people, COGECODESE says in the communique. It adds that this was the case this morning when U.S. combat units in armed military vehicles arrived in the town of La Chorrera, causing panic among the people. They attempted to pass over Panamanians who, in a spontaneous, brave, and nationalistic gesture, prevented the invading troops from passing. Consequently, COGECODESE calls on the community in general to remain in a vigilant, defensive attitude in view of this U.S. military incursion, which is an attack on the territory's sovereignty.

Further on Incident

PA0111012889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2343 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The people in La Chorrera today took to the streets armed with nothing but justice and the strength derived from the anger they felt when they saw their homeland being attacked. The people carried out a heroic action, carrying only our flag in their hands, and expelled the U.S. forces—thus stopping them from insulting our dignity and sovereignty with another act of aggression, when the latter tried to cross through the town with a convoy of fully equipped armored personnel carriers. The courageous attitude of the La Chorrera people, whose chests became a wall representing the nation's spirit, was supported by the members of the La Chorrera Bus Drivers Union, SICAMOCH, who placed their vehicles across the street, blocking the invading military units' path.

The event occurred at the entrance of La Chorrera at approximately 1000, when the U.S. troops—in a continuation of their arrogant actions and in a boastful show of their military power against a defenseless nation—tried to violate our national sovereignty by crossing the town with a convoy of 11 armored personnel carriers that were protected from the air by sophisticated aircraft which included fully armed F-15 airplanes and COBRA helicopters. The people's reaction was voluntary and spontaneous when they saw that their children were terrified by the warplanes' extremely dangerous dives.

Captain (Alexander Basich), executive member of the 10th Military Zone, clearly described the event:

[Begin recording] [(Basich)] This morning, at approximately 0900, 11 U.S. Army armored personnel carriers approached the area of La Chorrera; 9 tried to enter La Chorrera through the main street, and 2 tried to enter the Chase neighborhood in an attempt to approach La Chorrera from another direction. The 11 vehicles were stopped in front of the Los Tres Ticos gas station. SICAMOCH drivers stopped them and did not let them enter the town. Meanwhile, the people picked up flags and marched en mass through the streets to stop the invading U.S. troops from taking over La Chorrera.

This map you see here belongs to the U.S. Armed Forces. They dropped it, and you can clearly see a green line marking the place where they intended to enter the town. They had plans to drive down the Avenue of Las Americas up to El Coco; then they were to enter the San Jose neighborhood, turn around, reach the highway, continue to the Nicolas Solano Hospital, return to town, drive through the town, and then pull out. There are some blue routes, security routes, which we have yet to verify. They have some names and operation areas in English which we do not know about, but you can clearly see the plans they intended to carry out to intimidate the people in La Chorrera.

[Reporter] What was the main goal of the operation carried out this morning?

[Basich] We really do not know what it was because they had notified us that they would carry out a reconnaissance operation in the area. The last time they reached Vista Alegre so we were surprised when they tried to enter La Chorrera. We were not about to give them the chance, because the people of La Chorrera will not let the invading troops take over our town.

[Reporter] Is this the first time they tried to take over the town or have they tried it on other occasions?

[Basich] They had not entered the area of La Chorrera, as far as I know.

[Reporter] How do you term the U.S. Armed Forces' attitude?

[Basich] It has been provocative. Maybe they tried to celebrate Halloween with us—I do not think so—but the people of La Chorrera played a trick on them. [end recording]

This new aggression is not a simple act of intimidation. It has all the characteristics of a grave offense to the nation's dignity because it has been carried out precisely during the month when we celebrate the homeland's independence anniversary [as heard]—when we are about to celebrate another anniversary of our independence from Colombia and Spain; All Souls' Day; and the Colon and Los Santos independence announcements—holidays that the people of La Chorrera celebrate with zeal and nationalism.

The heroic attitude assumed by the people of La Chorrera was applauded by the Western Panama Technical Board because they stood up to the U.S. arrogance without thinking about the consequences, and with a single goal in mind—defending our self-determination and national liberation. A resolution was issued condemning the new act of aggression and congratulating the dignified and courageous people of La Chorrera.

[Begin recording of unidentified woman] The Western Panama Technical Board's resolution states:

Whereas:

1. The people of La Chorrera proved their bravery, courage, and nationalism without weapons, armed only

with the national flag and justice. The yankee aggressor was forced to flee in disarray by people who defended themselves, armed only with courage and justice.

Therefore, it decides:

1. To condemn on the world level the aggression that has once more been perpetrated against us by cowardly U.S. imperialists, through their Armed Forces; in a show of armed power that does not surpass the power of the Panamanian people's dignity—in this case the dignity of the people of La Chorrera.

2. To declare a state of alert among the Panamanian people who love peace and their homeland, to counter this type of aggression—not with weapons, but with the morals and dignity a free and sovereignty nation has the right to possess.

3. To congratulate the dignified and courageous people of La Chorrera, who faced the aggressor with decision, courage, and nationalism to defend the self-determination to which we have a right as a free and sovereignty nation.

4. To state that actions like this will not make us give up our national liberation struggle; quite the contrary, these actions will strengthen our decision to support the efforts being exerted by His Excellency President Francisco A. Rodriguez and our Panama Defense Forces Commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Issued in La Chorrera, on 31 October 1989 [end recording]

Official Sees Attempt To Oust Panama From OAS

PA3110223289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2128 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 31 Oct (DPA)—Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Abelardo Carles said today that "we cannot rule out the possibility" that the governments that "head the chorus of aggression" against his country might propose the expulsion of Panama from the OAS at the next OAS General Assembly meeting on 13 November in Washington.

In an interview after he closed an exhibit to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, Carles said that, even if those governments "attempt this extreme measure against Panama, that initiative will not be successful." On the other hand, the deputy foreign minister described as "positive for the Panamanian struggle," the end of the diplomatic mission of John Maisto, who today ended his term as charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

Maisto was declared "persona non grata" and, according to Carles, Panamanians would consider it "bad news" for him to remain in the country.

Government Minister, Endara Discuss Meeting

PA3110145489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2325 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Renato Pereira summoned Guillermo Endara Galimany to his office today so he could explain what Pereira called "foolish statements" made by Endara in Costa Rica. Pereira also warned Endara about the need to maintain his composure in his opposition to the current government.

[Begin Pereira recording] We will make all efforts to keep this country at peace and maintain tranquillity, despite the U.S. hostility. I am not going to ask for the opposition's cooperation, but I am drawing your attention to certain actions carried out by the opposition, which thinks it can ride the U.S. policy bandwagon for its own benefit.

I think this is a dangerous policy. The Americans should understand—and I ask the opposition to understand this, too—that they cannot decide Panama's future. Panama's future is decided by Panamanians themselves, without violence. If this country is in a state of war, it is because of the constant U.S. provocations.

I would like to end by saying that the opposition should play fair, here and abroad. Here in Panama they say one thing, but when they go abroad, they start making foolish statements that do not contribute to the necessary unity between the Panamanian opposition and the government. We should all agree that the Americans should not rule our country. We should lead our nation with our own hands and heads. [end recording]

Later the government and justice minister said that if the civilians in the opposition want to put on their war hats, there are other civilians who are willing to fight them.

[Begin Pereira recording] Mr Endara, for you and other opposition politicians: We are going to fulfill our mission. We are going to preserve peace among Panamanians. We are going to make every effort to maintain political and social stability and to avoid violence, but if the civilians in the opposition want to put on their helmets, they should know that there are also other civilians who are willing to wear their own helmets. I do not think this is the best solution, because, frankly, Endara, I do not think you have the look of a guerrilla commander. I do not think anyone in the opposition has a guerrilla calling. You are politicians, and I am a politician. We both have to ask the Americans to stop the aggression and to allow us to decide things among ourselves. Maybe we can find formulas that will allow us to develop ourselves democratically.

I do not know what type of conversation you were in, and I do not know where you got the information, if any, that led you to make that type of statement. You should know that people in the United States are openly speaking about the assassination of General Manuel Antonio Noriega as a solution. That will not solve anything. You and I know that perfectly well. That

would lead us to violence, because, even though there are people who oppose Gen Noriega, there are also people like me who believe in their sincere patriotism, in their nationalist feelings, in their honesty, and in their firm character. These people would react and our country would be divided. There would be people following Endara and people following Noriega or his memory. I sincerely tell you that we could be drawn into a civil war, which could be greater than other civil wars of the area. It is false that Panamanians are completely peaceful. It is not true that we are God's doves. We have shown throughout Panama's history that we are capable of violence when our nationalist feelings are hurt. You and I know that, because you and I were militants in the Federation of Panamanian Students, and you know what I am talking about.

Therefore, I am ending this meeting with Mr Endara, and his statements here have no judicial bearing. [end recording]

Following his meeting with the government and justice minister, Endara said the following when questioned by the media:

[Begin Endara recording] I did not say what they say I said. [end recording]

PRD's Duque Says San Jose Summit 'Biased'

PA3110134589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 29 Oct 89 p 20-A

["This Week" column by Carlos Duque, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD: "The Injustice of a Summit That Was No Summit"]

[Text] We cannot begin our usual weekly comments without first extending a special thanks to all our fellow party members who worked so hard to ensure the success of the meeting of the PRD National Directorate held in the Balboa Theater yesterday.

It was an extraordinarily positive effort and has been extensively reported in this newspaper issue. On the other hand, we must review certain events in the international arena which affect us in one way or another.

For example, let us analyze the damage that Oscar Arias tried to cause us through the biased minisummit held over the weekend in San Jose.

Oscar Arias is a special case.

The United States first tried to give him the profile of a statesman by means of the Nobel Prize. It did not work. Peace is still unattained, and the spectre of war is looming over the five sister countries in one way or another. To the age-old drama of underdevelopment, the United States added a stage of absurd, repugnant violence.

Arias knows that he will turn over the Presidency without there being peace in the subregion, and he has returned to his preferred strategy of obtaining abroad what he was unable to achieve through his administration, an administration that provided answers to the social drama that is an inevitable burden on the country—known as an exemplary Switzerland—through the manipulation of the gringos.

Oscar also invented a centennial, but there are two or three periods of dark tyranny in those 100 years of impressive exercise of law, freedom, and honesty in the handling of public funds. Stalin showed the Costa Rican leaders that history can be adapted to the circumstances.

Bush, who agrees to anything rather than give up his sick obsession against Panama, joined in the centennial and set as a sole condition that President Francisco Rodriguez Poveda not be invited. To cover up the grotesque, petty exclusion, they added Cuba, Chile, and Haiti.

However, they did not expect the absence of Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Spain, Portugal, and Bolivia, which declined their respective invitations.

Indeed, the spectacle was reduced to the next lower level: a mini-summit. As Arias is a champion of underhanded maneuvers, an agenda was prepared on the basis of democracy, drugs, debt, disarmament, development, and deforestation—six d's, point-blank.

Four other countries were about to join the absentees. The generalized opinion is that at the present time, an agenda on that scale could not begin to be covered in the less than 40 hours that were scheduled, 60 percent of which were spent in banquets, protocolary ceremonies, and bombastic speeches. "If a declaration has to be signed, we will not attend."

The pressure from the State Department could not keep the summit from the verge of collapse. Arias announced that there would be no final declaration or communique.

It had all remained a social encounter, but there was more: At the last minute, the arrogant Bush issued a new requirement. He would not sign any document of any kind in which the name of Daniel Ortega appeared. Arias, almost crying, asked Secretary James Baker to persuade Bush so that an agreement could be reached. The most he could accomplish was to get Bush to remain until today, Sunday, and take his plane back to the United States after breakfast. The host, Arias Sanchez, had planned a day on the beach, which was attended by two or three presidents who wanted to stay on the good side of the personage of political fiction. The other presidents said that they preferred the beach resorts in their own countries.

The only serious document with a theme, respectful language, and substance, amid the photographs and the television camaras (pomp and circumstance) that dominated the minisummit, was the Open Letter of Panama.

In his letter, President Rodriguez Poveda reiterated his commitment to hold popular elections once the external

factors that are currently preventing a free determination by Panamanians are eliminated.

And, with a masterful jab, he said: "When we truly want to end all vestiges of colonialism, the first thing that we will have to question is the legitimacy of having one or more nations attempt to attribute to themselves the exclusive right to define, endorse, or determine what democracy is."

Arias won the Nobel Peace Prize and other local awards during his frequent trips to the United States, and now he ends his Presidency with the October mini-summit, which has a juicy economic backdrop: the reduction of $1 billion in foreign debt to U.S. private banks, with Costa Rican commercial debt services reduced by two-thirds. Additionally, a World Bank mission was in San Jose, studying the new loans that Costa Rica needs and that will be granted as part of a credit package in the next few weeks.

Until next Sunday.

Official Contends U.S. Owes on Housing Rental

PA0111042189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Oct 89 pp 1, B-2

[Text] Canal Area MIVI [Housing Ministry] Director Ricardo de Sedas said that the U.S. Government owes more than 500,000 balboas to Panama in back rent for housing in reverted areas.

The report was made following the campaign the MIVI dependency is carrying out to try to recoup rent payments that are in arrears. According to De Sedas, the North American personnel that were occupying these houses left without notice, leaving rent unpaid, and partially destroying the houses like vandals.

It was also reported that the MIVI is reviewing a series of measures that range from eviction of delinquent renters to reviewing rent amounts and detecting subletting.

De Sedas also said that the usual housing misuse in that area has been minimized thanks to help from the Defense Forces.

"The MIVI will adopt energetic legal measures such as the seizure of property to recover rent payments that are in arrears," the MIVI source said.

UPI Accused of 'Disinformation Terrorism'

PA0111030889 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Oct 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo]

[Text] On 27 October, Government and Justice Minister Dr Renato Pereira issued a resolution ordering the multinational news agency "United Press International" (UPI) to close down its operations in Panama.

I should point out that UPI is accused of serving the State Department, the Pentagon, and the CIA.

Experts on disinformation techniques have pointed out that since UPI first appeared in Latin America, it has carried out an important disinformation task favoring U.S. political and interventionist interests. UPI is also accused of being a news agency with links to the Yankee empire's powerful disinformation machinery. UPI's mission is to develop programs of disinformation, calumny, and distortion against Latin American leaders who are fighting for their people's liberalization. UPI has always sided with the now conservative sectors of the Latin American oligarchy—traditional U.S allies—as part of the Yankee penetration, favoring and broading the empire's political, economic, and cultural domination over our people.

We should point out that the multinational UPI is not the only news agency which in one way or another is at the empire's service.

EFE, REUTER, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, AP, and other news agencies of lesser importance have also won their mark as our country's aggressors. From the moment President Reagan decided to finish off Panama, its leaders, and its people, UPI has carried out the role the power from the north has assigned to them—minimizing the role of U.S. meddling in the domestic affairs of Panamanians. This multinational news agency has been in the forefront to destroy the Panamanian nationalist movement, to undermine national unity, destroy Panamanian nationalist leaders with insults, caluminies, and lies—first it was Torrijos, and now it is Noriega—to destroy the government that said no to the United States, to destroy the nationalist leaders who did not bend to the empire's pretenses.

In fact, it could be said that UPI has put into action in Panama the highest levels of disinformation terrorism, always trying to destroy Panama.

UPI has appealed the order of the Government and Justice Ministry and will probably manage to get the decree overtuned that orders its expulsion from Panama. Meanwhile, UPI is using its agencies in nearby countries to continue its perverse campaign against Panamanian interests, against Panamanian leaders who refuse to become U.S. puppets. A ruling favoring UPI will be taken by them not as a concession by the sovereign territory, the Panamanian Government, but instead as an opportunity to continue the disinformation campaign against our country.

Sugar Surplus Sold to Nicaragua, Suriname, France

PA3110164689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Mateo Castillero, general director of La Victoria Sugar Corporation, reported the sale of the corporation's sugar surplus on the international market. The sugar

surplus had an approximate value of $9 million. The following are Castillero's words:

[Begin recording] [Castillero] The last shipment for France left last week. Soon, according to negotiations that have already been made, we will ship the remaining sugar shipment to Nicaragua. On 19 October we shipped a large quantity of sugar that we had sold to Suriname. This means we have been able to place our product on the foreign market, and next year we plan to work commercially with any country that will provide economic benefits and profits for our nation's economy and for La Victoria Sugar Corporation.

[Reporter] How much were the three shipments sold to foreign countries worth?

[Castillero] Approximately $9 million. [end recording]

Argentina

Menem Comments on Situation in Nicaragua

PY0110002689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2056 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Oct (DYN)—Today, President Carlos Menem said he thought that U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan "contras" makes the Central American situation "even more difficult."

In a statement to the media today, Menem referred to his good offices with the Sandinist regime, headed by Daniel Ortega, and the government of George Bush. However, he made a point of saying that he "is not acting as an intermediary."

The Argentine president, who last weekend met individually with the two presidents in San Jose and Managua, respectively, explained that "his good offices seek to stop the bloodshed in Central America."

Menem said that the objective is "to give these people (Nicaraguans) a chance to take the path toward democracy, starting with the upcoming elections there."

Menem said that Ortega's announcement that he would lift the cease-fire "had worsened the situation somewhat" but commented that the situation in Nicaragua "tends to return to normal."

Menem admitted that during the meeting in Managua he asked the Sandinist leader to "make every effort possible for a transparent" electoral process in his country and added that "they have promised to respect the rules of the game, and I think they are trying to do things properly."

In answering a question Menem said that "we have still not contacted" the Nicaraguan contras and added that the Tela agreement, "which calls for the demobilization of the contras," is fully in force.

Foreign Minister Discusses Falklands Issues

Negotiations 'Going Smoothly'

PY3110213289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallos has said that the Argentine Government will never accept that the British occupation of the Malvinas Islands gives the United Kingdom sovereign rights over the islands. In statements to the newspaper EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, Cavallo defended the talks held in Madrid and said that the so-called umbrella of sovereignty implies the acknowlegement of a dispute over the sovereign rights of the archipelago.

Cavallo also said that there is no possibility of an incident in the exclusion zone, which has been unilaterally established by the United Kingdom, because we do not plan to send either military aircraft or warships to the zone.

When asked if British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's drop in popularity is somehow linked to the bilateral negotiations over the Malvinas Islands, the foreign minister replied that Argentina does not speculate on British domestic affairs. Cavallo referred to this subject and others in Government House after meeting with President Carlos Menem this morning.

[Begin report from Government House by Silvina Martinez Porta] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo was present at the news conference granted by President Menem today. On this occasion Cavallo referred to the Malvinas. The foreign minister said that the negotiations with the United Kingdom are going smoothly. He stressed the importance of having begun serious talks. The foreign minister also commented on the steps that will now be taken before the next meeting, which will be held by mid-February in Madrid.

[Begin Cavallo recording] We have set the place where the work group will meet. This group will work on reestablishing confidence in the military field to make progress in the negotiations and work toward eliminating the protection zone. This work group will meet in Montevideo, and another work group will meet in Paris to begin talks on fishing issues.

The two groups will report to the Argentine and British negotiating missions which, as you know, will meet again on 14-15 February 1990 in Madrid. On that occasion their agenda will include the resumption of diplomatic relations. [end recording] [end report]

UK Given More Than Expected

PY3110234289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1942 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 31 Oct (DYN)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that "we will have to find the appropriate opportunity" on which to discuss sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands with the United Kingdom. He also announced that tomorrow he will report to the Chamber of Deputies on the recent agreements signed between London and Buenos Aires.

"The United Kingdom has given more than was expected, and some practical aspects that were harming Argentina have been resolved," the foreign minister said to the media and to the newspaper EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL. [passage omitted]

In a statement to EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL, Cavallo said that "the negotiating parties for the time being understand that they are not trying to reach any agreement regarding the original dispute, which is the sovereignty issue."

"The country cannot progress by trying to achieve the impossible," Cavallo said. He added: "Any Argentine citizen who is informed on the subject knows that it is not possible to sit at the negotiating table with a fixed date to discuss the Malvinas."

"Those of us who are politically responsible are acting within practical limits and in a realistic defense of our interests," he said.

However, he added that "we will have to find the appropriate circumstances" for discussing the sovereignty issue, which means that London "must agree to talk, that we believe that the appropriate moment to discuss the subject has come, and that there is a good possibility of success in the talks."

"The subject here is not dealing with the independence of a former colony. We are speaking of returning something in keeping with the integrity of territory obtained in 1833 by force and which Argentina claims is theirs."

In response to a question, the foreign minister said "we cannot apply the principle of self-determination by the inhabitants in this case because this 2,000 member community, to which the Argentine people have had no access or chance to settle, could never become an independent country." [passage omitted]

In his statement to the media, Cavallo said that "we are closer now than ever before to reaching an agreement, despite the umbrella placed on the subject" of sovereignty.

"The United Kingdom has given more than we expected and some practical aspects that were harming Argentina have been resolved," the foreign minister stated.

Finance Secretary Rodolfo Frigeri Resigns

PY3110203889 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli has accepted the resignation of Finance Secretary Rodolfo Frigeri. The economy minister made this announcement during a news conference in the situation room of Government House. Rapanelli also announced that the DGI [General Directorate of Taxation] and the customs secretariat will henceforth depend directly on the Economy Ministry. [passage omitted]

This morning we asked President Carlos Menem if Central Bank President Javier Gonzalez Fraga and Agriculture Secretary Felipe Sola would also resign. President Menem denied this possibility and added that this is the most absurd thing he has heard lately. [passage omitted]

President Menem paid his usual visit to the Government House press room early this morning to drink coffee and to hold an informal conversation with the media. Menem said that Frigeri's situation would be defined today. However, President Menem denied that there is a cabinet crisis. He described Frigeri as a man who does not desert.

[Begin recording] [Menem] Frigeri is a man who does not desert. However, there are some circumstances in which it is our duty to understand government officials. I still have not spoken with Frigeri, but when an official is not confortable in his post it is logical that he should request either support or the freedom to leave his post.

[Reporter] Mr President, there have been rumors of a crisis in the Economy Ministry. Could the ousting of a secretary be understood as a crisis?

[Menem] No. We Argentines are very sensitive regarding these issues. Any attitude of disagreement by a government official is interpreted as a crisis, just as when one cannot justify a difficult situation in the world, people say there is a moral crisis. This is not the case. There is no crisis. There are disagreements that are logical within a democratic framework, and there is democracy in this country, and this is how we must understand things. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Seineldin Reportedly 'Wants To Remain'

PY3110205889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Oct (NA)—Colonel Ali Seineldin "does not plan to go to Panama again and wants to remain in Argentina." This was reported by someone close to him today, thus denying reports that Seineldin was willing to "promptly" return to Panama.

A foreign report stated that Seineldin had sent a letter to Panama's ruling party leader, Luis Gaspar Suarez, expressing his wish to return to Panama soon.

Diplomatic sources said today that this report "caused concern" in places like the United States, Venezuela, and Costa Rica, whose governments are openly opposed to Noriega.

The sources indicated that "if this report is true, it could cause concern to the Bush administration which is maintaining an excellent relationship with Buenos Aires."

When asked about this matter, a person close to Col Ali Seineldin confirmed that "the colonel does not plan to go to Panama and has totally denied this report."

Coast Guard Finds Arms Cache in Creek

PY3010182689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2105 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Oct (NA)—The Argentine Coast Guard found a large number of weapons, including antitank rockets, submerged in the San Isidro Creek in northern greater Buenos Aires today. They also found literature presumably belonging to the All for the Fatherland Movement (MTP), a guerrilla organization

that participated in the takeover of the 3d Regiment of La Tablada in February 1989.

A Coast Guard source stated that the cache consisted of 1 homemade 9-mm submachine gun with 20 cartridges, 2 antitank grenades for rifles, 1 grenade for FAL [Light Automatic Rifle] rifles, 1 cylinder to launch PAF [expansion unknown] 62-mm antitank rockets marked with adhesive tape stating Column 2 Southern Zone, and 3 grenade launchers.

Three MK2 grenades, 1 MK5 grenade, 3 FAL rifle clips, 4 boxes with 80 162-mm projectiles each, and 50 11.25-mm bullets were also found.

The Coast Guard personnel involved in this operation had to detonate one of the grenades near the creek.

The Coast Guard source told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "12 left-wing Trotskyist books wrapped in nylon," were also submerged in the creek.

The search operation was carried out by Coast Guard divers with the cooperation of bomb squad personnel in the creek near the intersection of Gauto and Pavon Streets, next to the 33 Orientales overflow channel, near the River Plate.

Buenos Aires Province police also participated in the operation. The proceedings were submitted to San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Congratulates Spain's Felipe Gonzalez

PY3111173889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has sent a message to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez following the electoral success obtained by the Socialists in the recent Spanish elections. President Paz Zamora states: The Spanish people have once again demonstrated their admirable democratic maturity and you have given a new lesson in statesmanship.

The Bolivian president confirms his total identification with the position of the Spanish chief of state and with what he increasingly represents for Spain, Europe, and the world through the social, political, and economic process he is heading.

Mission To Negotiate Bilateral Debt With Brazil

PY3110225089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2053 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpts] La Paz, 30 Oct (EFE)—Today 30 October, the Bolivian Government announced it has begun negotiating its bilateral debt with Brazil, which totals $343.7 million.

Bolivian economic authorities have reported that a government mission headed by Central Bank President Raul Boada left for Brasilia today, where it will meet with high-ranking officials of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Brazil.

The Bolivian mission is composed of Jaime Delgadillo, economic policy undersecretary of the Finance Ministry, and Fernando Campero, economic studies manager of the Central Bank. [passage omitted]

The first contacts on the Bolivian-Brazilian bilateral debt began in September in Washington, the Bolivian authorities reported. Bolivian total foreign debt amounts to $3,233,000,000, of which $1,233,000,000 are bilateral debts. With $343.7 million loaned, Brazil is Bolivia's largest bilateral creditor. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Comments on Bush at Costa Rica Summit

PY3110183089 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Oct 89 p 10

[Text] During a working meeting on the evening of 27 October with 17 presidents of Latin American democracies in San Jose, Costa Rica, President Jose Sarney complained that the United States is paying too much attention to Eastern Europe. During the meeting, U.S. President George Bush mentioned Poland many times. In his speech, Sarney compared the current Latin American situation to that in the Weimar Republic at the beginning of the century, when two percent of its GNP had to be sent abroad as war compensation.

The Brazilian president said: "This is not a meeting at which to make complaints but to mediate." At the working meeting on 27 October, Bush "sang the praises" of the democratic system of government, but according to Brazilian Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Bush did not present any proposal for solving Latin American problems. Flecha de Lima said that Bush was frustrated by the timid reaction of the Organization of American States toward the case of Panama, a country whose government is headed by a dictator, General Noriega.

Upon arriving in Brasilia yesterday, Sarney did not mention the controversy between himself and Bush over the U.S. President's concern about the Brazilian electoral process.

Presidential Press Secretary Carlos Henrique said that President Jose Sarney gave a clear answer to a statement by the U.S. President, who said that he would like to help Brazil consolidate its democracy.

"Brazilian democracy was built by Brazilians," he said. "If the United States wants to do something about this process, it should not intervene in the elections; it should promote faster implementation of the Brady plan, and it should facilitate the negotiation of the Brazilian foreign

debt," the spokesman said. Carlos Henrique refused to comment on the possibility of Sarney having misunderstood an amusing remark by the U.S. President. "I don't know what he was trying to say," he noted.

At the Costa Rica meeting, the Latin American presidents unanimously condemned the Brady plan. Mexico, which has already closed a debt renegotiation deal based on the Brady plan, did not attend the meeting. The focal point of the Costa Rica meeting, however, was the exchange between George Bush and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Minister Denies Newspaper Reports on Economy

PY3110020089 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] The government is not planning a new price freeze or another economic shock. This information was reported by Ronaldo Costa Couto, minister secretary general of the presidency, who thus denied a report published by a Sao Paulo newspaper.

Minister Costa Couto believes that changing the finance minister at this time would be a real disaster. He also denied a report by the same newspaper that President Jose Sarney had ordered the ministers of the economic team to make no further government expenditures. Costa Couto said that President Sarney had not issued that order and that the government is going to make every effort possible to hand the country over on sound economic footing on 15 March 1990.

October Inflation Rate Totals 37.62 Percent

PY3110015489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Summary] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] reported today in Rio de Janeiro that the inflation rate for October amounted to 37.62 percent.

Chile

Aylwin To Act 'Independently' if Elected

PY3110013789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Patricio Aylwin, presidential candidate for the opposition, has promised to perform independently in the presidency if he is elected. Aylwin made this statement in thanking the members of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy for their support.

Aylwin said that the opposition coalition, knowing that the task of restoring democracy in Chile comes before the legitimate differences among sectors of various ideologies, has united under a program that reflects their shared points of view. Aylwin added that he will carry out the presidential duties independently.

[Begin Aylwin recording] My relationship with the parties of the opposition coalition, including my own party, will be based on the principle of reciprocal respect for everyone's functions and on reciprocal loyalty to the consensus reflected in our program. This is my commitment, not only to you but to the entire country. In keeping with these criteria I will carry out presidential functions independently, following my own conscience. In fulfilling this high-ranking duty I hope to have the effective cooperation of all honest and capable Chileans committed to our program, whether they are members of a given political party or independent, without any objective other than the well-being of Chile and its people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Injunction Issued Against U.S. Waste Shipment

PY0111125389 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 oct 89

[Text] Antofagasta—The Antofagasta Court of Appeals has issued a writ of amparo against a U.S. company to prevent a shipment of industrial waste from entering the country through the port of Antofagasta. The court injunction resulted from the petition filed by the regional department of the Flora and Fauna Defense Committee [CODEFF].

The court has granted the U.S. company 20 days to report on its mission. The first shipment of industrial waste is reportedly on board the merchant ship "Mercury Cape," which has set sail from Vancouver, Canada, and is scheduled to arrive in Antofagasta on 13 November.

Sources close to the CODEFF have said that the ship has not been allowed to dock at other ports. The Court of Appeals also decided to ask Regional Health Secretary Dr Eianar Escobar to report on the case. Escobar wrote to the committee to tell them that he had heard about the Pacific Chemical Engineering Chile Ltd. project. According to CODEFF General Coordinator Guillermo Luna, this project, the goal of which is to install a factory to produce zinc sulfate from industrial waste for agricultural use, is not very reliable or viable because an environmental impact study has not been done.

Luis Araya Cerda, a representative for the foreign firm, has said the company has instructed its lawyers to answer the injunction. He refused to comment any further.

Colombia

General Laments Lack of Support in Drug Struggle

PA0111035489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0005 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Report by journalist—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] General Miguel Maza Marquez delivered a harsh speech today during the celebration of the 36th anniversary of the Administrative Department of Security,

DAS. Gen Maza Marquez specifically blamed Colombia's leadership for what he considers a grave lack of solidarity in the antidrug struggle. In other words, Gen Maza Marquez believes he has been left alone. Likewise, President Virgilio Barco reasserted during the ceremony that the possibility of a dialogue with drug traffickers has been completely ruled out.

Gen Maza Marquez reported that the country's leadership does not want to help him in the antidrug struggle. In other words, he said, there are dangerous and despicable people whose only goal is to defend personal interests without concern for the homeland.

[Maza Marquez] "The antidrug struggle has been waged despite innumerable obstacles, caused by certain groups' lack of willingness to participate in this bloody struggle."

Gen Maza Marquez criticized the country's leadership during the solemn ceremony in which he was decorated by President Barco with the medal for distinguished service. The DAS medal for distinguished service was also given to several military leaders, two ministers, four governors, and to government and DAS officials. The medal for distinguished service and courage was posthumously bestowed on the bodyguard who died with Luis Carlos Galan and two DAS detectives who died while on duty.

President Virgilio Barco said that the country owes a debt of gratitude, and has admiration for all of them. He again ruled out any dialogue with the drug traffickers.

[Barco] "The government has rejected and will continue to firmly reject such proposals. These criminals do not want peace. They only want impunity to perpetrate their crimes and carry out their illegal activities."

Candidate for Mayor, Brother-in-Law Gunned Down

PA0111020189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2221 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 31 Oct (AFP)—Liberal Party member Fabio Roa, candidate for mayor of Puerto Lopez, Meta Department, in the country's southeast, and his brother-in-law Norberto Saavedra were shot to death in a busy street of this town in broad daylight, it has been reported in Bogota.

As a result of the double homicide, Mayor Ricardo Bravo established a curfew, effective for an indefinite period between 1800 and 0600, and forbade the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Roa and Saavedra were gunned down by hitmen in a jeep. The gunmen escaped after perpetrating the crime before numerous passersby, who looked on in astonishment in the busy street.

Authorities immediately initiated a comprehensive military operation to try to locate the assassins.

More on Killing of Cartel Military Chief

PA3110190189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 31 Oct (AFP)—The organization of well-known Medellin Cartel kingpin Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, or "El Mexicano," has lost Victor Linares, its military chief. Linares was assassinated by unidentified men in western Bogota on Monday, the police reported today in Bogota.

The body of Linares—whom the police said is the creator of the peasants' self-defense groups in Middle Magdalena, 400 km north of Bogota—was left in the backseat of a (?Renault) R-4 vehicle with three bullet holes in the head and one in the thorax. Two men accompanying Linares, who seemed to be his bodyguards, were also hit in the shooting and were taken to a hospital in Bogota.

Linares' assassination took place a few meters from the National Modelo Jail in western Bogota, where Linares had been to visit Freddy Rodriguez, son of "El Mexicano." The police arrested Freddy Rodriguez during a raid on one of Rodriguez Gacha's farms, as part of the war against the drug mafias unleashed by the government of President Virgilio Barco.

Linares had survived an attack in June in northern Bogota. The police said they had no clues concerning who had perpetrated this crime. The police added that Linares had become involved in the Rodriguez Gacha organization when the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] exterminated his family several years ago.

ELN Guerrillas Blow Up Pipeline Section

PA3110193689 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Police and army troops have increased patrols in the Norte de Santander Department to prevent new bomb attacks against pipelines in the area after ELN [National Army of Liberation] guerrillas blew up a section of the pipeline carrying fuel to Barrancabermeja and Cartagena.

According to a report issued by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL, the attack occurred at km 345 of the pipeline.

Pardon Law Not To Affect Foreign Guerrillas

PA3110134889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2231 GMT 29 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Oct (AFP)—Colombian Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said today that the foreign guerrilla leaders in the Army of National Liberation (pro-Cuban ELN), among them the Spanish priest Manuel Perez, will not benefit from the pardon law.

Lemos Simmonds made the statement on the private Caracol Network in Bogota, where a pardon for insurgents who return to civilian life was announced. President Virgilio Barco recently submitted this pardon to congress for consideration.

The minister also underscored the peace process that was established with the 19 April Movement (M-19), and the current stage of the preliminary talks with the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the People's Liberation Army (EPL).

"I believe that the position of the pardon bill concerning foreigners is wise, because the people who are interested in Colombian politics must be Colombians," the minister said.

"Meddling by foreigners is unacceptable. Colombia's politics are for Colombians and for the defense of peace in Colombia and must not be interfered with by individuals who have nothing to do with us," Lemos Simmonds added.

He added that "the pardon for the guerrillas will not favor the ELN leaders, most of whom are Spanish priests."

Meanwhile, Lemos Simmonds expressed optimism over the peace process that President Barco's government initiated with the M-19, one of the most belligerent guerrilla groups in the past few years, and he said that a series of events have already taken place that hint at the possibility that the arrival of peace may be announced—or at least the beginning of certain peace with a sector which for a long time was up in arms.

Lemos Simmonds added that the peace process with the M-19 has been carried out in a very intelligent manner by those who have participated. It will culminate "I believe, as a concrete fact," not only in peace and demobilization, but in this guerrilla group and its members' return to the country's institutional life through a special system of electoral restrictions which congress is considering as part of the temporary referendum.

This will allow the M-19 and others that accept the peace process to participate in congressional debates through an election which, for the next 4 years, would be carried out exclusively through the special restriction system.

The minister admitted that, optimistically, he cannot give assurances that the government will turn over a country in total peace on 7 August 1990, "because there are other phenomena such as the struggle against drug trafficking, which will be lengthy and bloody."

Three Guerrillas Killed in Clash With Troops

PA3110200789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 OCT 89

[Text] From Florencia: Clashes in the last few hours in the Valparaiso municipality between troops of the 12th Army Brigade and a CNG [Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board] column has left three guerrillas dead and allowed troops to seize military equipment.

The commander of the military commission, Colonel Norberto Cordoba, has issued a communique saying that the clashes occurred at La Solita post in Valparaiso when troops repelled an attack by the CNG. Three rebels were killed in the clashes. One of them was Angel Maria Guaracha. Colonel Cordoba said that the troops seized a submachine gun, three pistols, two revolvers, three fragmentation grenades, 200 rounds of ammunition, quartermaster supplies, and documents of the guerrilla groups.

The commander of the 12th Brigade reported in the communique that search and control operations continue throughout the area. No new clashes had been reported until now.

Paraguay

Central Bank Details Foreign Debt Obligations

PY3110021589 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 16

[Excerpts] Central Bank President Dr Crispiniano Sandoval has reported to the congressional commission reviewing the proposal for next year's budget that the country's foreign debt stood at $2,020,201,610.70 as of 30 September, including net balances and overdue interest. [passage omitted]

Of that total, $1,957,599,493.30 is from the outstanding debt principal and $62,702,117.40 is from overdue interest.

Further breaking down that total, $646,481,492.70 in outstanding debt principal plus overdue interest is owed to multilateral organizations; $698,554,367.60 is owed to financial institutions and foreign governments under the Paris Club; $239,787,681.40 is owed to non-Paris Club commercial banks and private foreign institutions; $2,177,180.90 is owed to Latin American banks; and $435,482,069 is owed to the Bank of Brazil. [passage omitted]

Dr Crispiniano Sandoval said that the debt to multilateral entities is being served normally and that there is no need to renegotiate with them. He added that renegotiations with the Paris Club require a previous agreement with the IMF and that such an agreement is now being negotiated with the IMF. [passage omitted]

Regarding renegotiations with non-Paris Club commercial banks, there are plans to discuss the terms of repayment with each bank individually.

Finally, he said that the $435,482,069 debt to the Bank of Brazil has been restructured, including an important option to make payments with Brazilian debt notes bought on the international secondary market at discounted prices. [passage omitted]

Early Date Set for Special Party Convention

PY3010231889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Oct 89 p 3

[Excerpt] Making use of its majority, the ANR [Republican National Association] faction known as the orthodox traditionalists has set 2 December as the date for the special party convention. The traditionalist hardliners are thus pushing forward a project to introduce changes in the party's executive board. They have set this early date because a later date might give the dissident sectors time to influence party chapters toward a more open and participative position. [passage omitted]

Peru

Terrorists Continue Attacks Before Elections

Murder Professor, Injure Mayor

PY3110193089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0145 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Lima, 30 Oct (EFE)—It was reported today in Lima that a university professor was mudered and that a mayor was injured and is currently missing. Five candidates for mayor have been attacked by terrorists in different places in Peru since last Sunday.

According to police sources, a column of the armed "Shining Path" Maoist terrorists attacked the town of Cajamarquilla in the northern department of Ancash, and shot dead local national university professor Rafael Castillo, the son of local Mayor Arencio Castillo. The mayor himself is missing after being shot, probably abducted by the terrorists.

The missing mayor is a militant member of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

The "Shining Path" terrorists also set fire to a telephone plant, the local town hall, and the house of Cajamarquilla's judge. Cajamarquilla is located some 400 km north of Lima.

Police sources have also reported that several candidates for the post of mayor of Barranca, Lima Province, and of two of its districts in the 12 November municipal elections have had their homes attacked by "Shining Path" activists. This has led two of them to give up their candidacy.

According to Orlando Tapia of the center-rightist Democratic Front (FREDEMO), and Manuel Silva of the APRA, who are both candidates for provincial mayors and who today tendered their resignations to the electoral board, the attacks injured some of their family members. For this reason and "due to the lack of security and guarantees for the candidates," they have given up their candidacies.

The sources added that the houses of three candidates for mayor of districts in Barranca— Luis Arevalo of the APRA, Cosme Flores of the United Left (IU) coalition of Marxist parties of Pativilca, and Wilfrido Hidalgo, of the FREDEMO of Paramonga—were also attacked with explosives, which caused only property damage, the sources said.

These sources added that a large area of the province was without electricity because an electric tower on the hydroelectric power line between Carhua and Paramonga was blown up.

Journalist sources have reported that political and municipal officials of that province have asked the Defense and Interior Minstries to send police and military troops to guarantee provincial security.

The Peruvian Government has declared a state of emergency for 15 days in Barranca, located in the extreme north of Lima Province, because of intensified subversive activity in that region.

The state of emergency suspends all constitutional guarantees, including the right to hold meetings and arrests only by judicial order. Military control of the zone was imposed.

The Interior Ministry has also reported that Nelson Guia, Peruvian commander of the International Police, and National Police Sergeant Luis Caceres, were murdered today in two Lima districts presumably by Shining Path "annihilation squads."

These crimes and attacks are part of the violent escalation unleashed by "Shining Path," which seeks to boycott the municipal elections [words indistinct] that already caused the death of at least 350 people.

Meanwhile, all Peruvian political parties are ready to stage a "march for peace" in defense of democracy on 3 November, opposing a call for an "armed stoppage" made by the Maoist terrorist organization on the same day.

Attack Police, Electric Towers

PY3110180489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Lima, 30 Oct (EFE)—Peruvian Interior Ministry sources have reported that a member of the Peruvian National Police, who is also an Interpol commander, was killed today in Lima, presumably by Shining Path terrorists during an offensive unleashed 12 days before the municipal elections. [Passage omitted]

In Lima, another commando that apparently also belonged to the Maoist "Shining Path" organization, shot and killed Peruvian National Police Sergeant Luis Caceres Tavara, 24.

Two high-voltage electric towers were sabotaged on the night of 29 October, causing a partial blackout in the Peruvian capital.

During the blackout, terrorists threw incendiary bombs at a police precinct building, injuring three policemen.

The police believe that these attacks were perpetrated by the Shining Path.

Peruvian Interior Ministry sources have pointed out that 160,000 national policemen are confined to barracks as of today. Their confinement will end after the holding of the municipal elections on 12 November.

According to provisional data, during October more than 350 people were killed in Peru as a result of the terrorist offensive against the elections.

The Shining Path has called a boycott against the elections and an "armed stoppage," that is, a strike under the threat of attacks, for 3 November.

In response, the main political parties have asked the people to participate in a "march for peace and the defense of democracy." This march is also scheduled for 3 November in Lima.

Fire at Police Stations

PY3110208089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Telephone report from Pucallpa by reporter Roger Palomino]

[Text] Alleged terrorists simultaneously attacked National, Technical, and General Police stations in Pucallpa last night. The terrorists fired machine guns from a passing white pickup truck. The attack took place at 0000.

National Police sources reported that four individuals, smelling of gun powder, were arrested and placed at the disposal of the regional military and political authority. The police in this city are in a state of red alert.

Peruvian Participation in UN Force Extended

PY3110172889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Peruvian contingent that forms part of a UN assistance group in Namibia will stay there for another 6 months.

The Peruvian contingent has been in Namibia since early 1989 to monitor the independence transition period.

Venezuela

Perez Agrees With Ortega on Contra Issue

PA3110135989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0753 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Caracas, 30 Oct (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez stated today that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was right in asking for compliance with the agreement to dismantle the "contras" in Honduras.

The disarmament of the Nicaraguan rebels was one of the agreements made by the Central American presidents at Tela, Honduras, to attain a peaceful solution to regional problems.

Perez said that "it has not been possible to implement the mechanisms for the United Nations to supervise and demobilize the 'contras' in Honduras as had been agreed upon."

"President Ortega is right on this matter, because there has apparently been interference to avoid the implementation of the mechanisms," added Perez. However, the president did not point out the source of the interference.

"We held long conversations in Costa Rica with President Ortega, President Bush, and other Latin American presidents about this problem. President Ortega asked me to mediate before the Group of Eight and attempt to normalize the situation with the demobilization of the 'contras' and the maintenance of the cease-fire."

Ortega announced at the "summit" of 17 American democratically-elected heads of government that his government would suspend the cease-fire it had honored for the past 19 months. The summit was held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 27-28 October.

Perez said that he is now making "these efforts" and noted that he hopes that "all the parties involved in the problem will be understanding."

Guyana

Government To Sell Trade Company's Assets

FL3110224689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2221 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 31, CANA—The Guyana Government has decided to sell the assets of the Guyana National Trading Corporation (GNTC), Deputy Prime Minister of Planning and Development Haslyn Parris said on Tuesday. Parris told CANA that the decision to sell GNTC's assets was made in keeping with the government's overall strategy for divestment. He said the GNTC was a marginal contributor to the government's revenue and the decision to sell the assets was not motivated entirely by the need for money in the government's coffers to close a runaway budget deficit. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Tucayana Indians Claim Responsibility for Clash

FL3110202789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The bauxite town of Moengo in the Marowijne District was calm this morning following the brief attack by the Tucayana Amazon Indians yesterday morning.

With the exception of the telecommunications company, 12 enterprises and government institutions have remained closed.

The Tucayana Amazon Indians yesterday carried out an attack on Moengo which has been occupied for over 2 weeks now by the Union for Liberation and Democracy. The leader of the union, (Kofe Adhin Pang), declared that this group drove back the attackers while other sources say that the union withdrew itself from Moengo during the attack by the Tucayanas and returned after some hours. During the attack, one civilian was reported dead.

President Ramsewak Shankar this morning received a letter from the Tucayanas in which they take responsibility for the action. The Tucayanas state in the letter that they were forced to undertake actions to free Moengo from the occupation of the union. In the letter, they say that they took the action because the government has failed to take measures to normalize the situation in the bauxite town.

President Ramsewak Shankar hasn't yet reacted on the actions of the Tucayanas.

Talks With Tucayanas To Be Held in Paramaribo

FL3110213989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The Tucayana Amazon Indians have told Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon that for the time being, it's simpler for them to come to Paramaribo for negotiations. The Tucayanas have been advised by the assembly chairman to come to Paramaribo for further negotiations. The negotiations started at the beginning of this month at Bigi Poika and it was proposed by Lachmon that they should be continued in Paramaribo.

In the letter to the assembly chairman, the Tucayanas said that Lachmon hasn't come up with any new points for discussion and, as a result, it doesn't make sense for them to come to Paramaribo for further talks. The Tucayanas are also of the opinion that Assembly Chairman Lachmon cannot guarantee their safety in Paramaribo.

The Tucayanas have taken armed control of the western part of Suriname for 2 months now and are calling for the scrapping of the Kourou Agreements.